





## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Jaguar faults may hit 140,000 cars

Jaguar has been forced to recall more than 47,000 of its luxury and high-performance models for emergency repairs. A fault traced to the braking system of the XJ6 saloons, which could affect 28,000 cars, may be "potentially dangerous", while the cruise control of 19,500 XJS sports cars and Series III saloons was also found to pose a risk.

Although the recall was confined to Britain, the company admitted last night that it would be forced to repair thousands more exported cars. A similar number to that in Britain could be affected in the US and Europe.

Jaguar is writing to owners in Britain, warning them to contact local dealers to have repairs carried out. No accidents have been reported as a result of the faults.

## Another mortgage rise

Leeds Permanent, Britain's fifth largest building society, is raising its mortgage interest rate by 0.9 per cent to 15.4 per cent. It said the increase was unavoidable to remain competitive. It will apply immediately for new borrowers and from March 1 for existing loans (Jon Ashworth writes).

Last week, Abbey National and Nationwide Anglia raised mortgage rates to 15.4 per cent. Britain's largest society, the Halifax, said it expected to decide this week.

## Irish appeal reserved

The Supreme Court in Dublin reserved judgement yesterday in an appeal by Mr Owen Carron, the former Fermanagh/South Tyrone MP, against extradition to Ulster. Mr Carron, aged 37, a teacher, is wanted over possession of an assault rifle near Enniskillen on December 19, 1985. He was arrested by the Irish police in Co Sligo in February 1988. His extradition was ordered by a District Court. Carron appealed against the order but it was rejected by the High Court last March.

## PC jailed for perjury

A policeman who lied on oath about his earnings to try to get maintenance payments reduced was jailed for three months at Truro Crown Court yesterday. Peter Little, aged 34, of Blackwater, Cornwall, had told magistrates in Truro in December 1987 that he was earning £660 net a month, the jury heard, but was earning £792 net, including his rent allowance. Little denied perjury but was convicted by a unanimous verdict.

## Seamen took ecstasy

Three Royal Navy seamen who experimented with the drug ecstasy were sent to a naval detention centre for 60 days yesterday. The ratings were seen sharing two tablets of the amphetamine-based stimulant in Union Street, Plymouth. Able Seamen Phillip Mason, aged 18, of HMS Sheffield, and Stephen Bates, aged 18, of HMS Brave, admitted attempted possession. Seaman Glenn Holmstrom, aged 18, of HMS Sheffield, who denied the charge, was found guilty.

## Life for girl's murder

Timothy Robson, who is partially deaf, read the hands of a sign language interpreter at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday to learn that he was being jailed for life for the murder of a deaf girl, Miss Susanne Greenhill. Robson, aged 28, of Newport, Gwent, stabbed Miss Greenhill to death at her flat in Newport after raping her.

## Conservatives peers oppose student loans scheme

## Plans to block changes in Bill

By Sam Kiley  
Higher Education  
Reporter

Conservative peers are planning to block the Government's Student Loans Bill on the grounds that the legislation could be unconstitutional and that they believe loans will depress the number of people going to college.

Lord Beloff, leader of the dissenting Tory faction, said yesterday that changes proposed by the Government would alter the Bill significantly from the version passed by the Commons last week, when it is introduced to the Lords at the end of the month.

"We are faced with the possibility that the Bill has been approved by the Commons with one explanation about how the scheme will work and leave the Lords with quite a different one — a number of peers will argue that that is unconstitutional," Lord Beloff, a former don at Oxford University, said.

The distinguished historian's remarks follow the announcement earlier this week that Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, would amend the loans bill in the Lords to force higher education institutions to help to administer the scheme.

His statement followed a "curt meeting" on Tuesday at which the heads of all British higher education institutions said that they would only co-operate if legally required to.

Furthermore, the Liberal Democrat, Earl Russell, expects cross-party support for an amendment he will introduce in the Lords which would delay the Bill until more details of how the scheme would work have been published. The move could foil the proposals altogether.

At present the Bill is a piece of "enabling" legislation four clauses long which would give Mr MacGregor powers to set up almost any loans system he saw fit.

"There is a very real concern in the House that enabling legislation is being used to circumvent the revising powers of the Lords — too



Fire-eating Cambridge University students outside King's College Chapel demonstrate their feelings about loans.

much is being done by statutory instruments." Earl Russell, professor of British history at Kings College, London, said.

An example of the "acute malfunction of Parliament", he said, was that the Government recently announced its intention to remove students from the welfare system by ministerial regulation rather than by legislation subject to parliamentary approval.

The challenge from the Lords and the snub from university vice-chancellors, polytechnic directors, and college principals in England, Wales, and Scotland, are the latest in a series of setbacks to Government proposals to introduce student loans.

The scheme was first published in November 1988 by Mr Kenneth Baker, then edu-

cation secretary. Originally the Government hoped to lend students £420 outside London and £460 inside the capital.

The scheme, which could not result in any savings until well into the next century, has been severely criticized by a wide range of bodies from the National Union of Students to the Confederation of British Industry.

The cost would be met from the public purse while the administration would be handled by the high street banks.

The maintenance grant, claimed in full by about a third of students and worth about £2,500 a year, would be frozen at this year's levels while undergraduate rights to claim income support and housing benefit would be removed.

Repayments of the real-interest-free loans would begin when the graduate is earning 85 per cent of the average national wage.

The banks expressed reluctance from the outset but their wholesale withdrawal from negotiations with ministers did not come until Lloyds, the Bank of Scotland, the Clydesdale and the Co-op banks pulled out last November — precipitating a National Union of Students' boycott campaign of all banks still talking to the Government.

In December the rest of the banks also pulled out — a move which Mr MacGregor said yesterday "merely resulted in administrative hassle" but which, according to Sir John Quinton, chairman of Barclays Bank, had the Prime Minister "fizzing with

fury". Opposition politicians believe that the Prime Minister had a "secret agenda" to abolish grants altogether and replace them with a loan issued through the banks — possibly repayable at a commercial rate of interest.

However the bulk of the criticism of the scheme, which is likely to become increasingly vociferous in the House of Lords and could result in the Bill being delayed so that loans cannot be introduced by the target date of September, has centred on the fear that working class students would be put off higher education if they had to pay for part of it.

This is supported by a National Union of Students' survey, which showed 16 per cent of all students said they would not go to college if loans were introduced.

## Pressure grows for Browne to resign

By Sheila Gann  
Political Reporter

Mrs Thatcher yesterday increased the pressure on Mr John Browne, the Conservative MP, to stand down before the next general election for breaching House of Commons rules.

Winchester Conservatives also demanded a special meeting to decide the future of their MP. More than 100 local members have signed a motion calling for a special meeting within 28 days and the immediate adoption of a new parliamentary candidate. Many said they believe the Tories could lose the seat if Mr Browne stands again.

During question time, the Prime Minister said the report of the Commons committee on members' interests, which upheld allegations against Mr Browne of failing to declare business interests, is "a serious one and must be considered very carefully".

Sir Geoffrey Howe, deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House, is expected to announce tomorrow when MPs will debate the report and decide what disciplinary action to take against him.

Mr Browne defended his actions, denying that he had actively lobbied at Westminster on behalf of Saudi Arabia. He said he would not resign "in present circumstances" and would put himself at the mercy of the Commons, which is expected to debate the report within the next few weeks.

In Winchester, the Conservative majority was cut from nearly 23,000 in 1979, when Mr Browne was first elected, to 7,479 in the 1987 general election. Conservative MPs do not relish a by-election in such a sensitive area.

A further threat to Mr Browne emerged yesterday when Major John Goulet threatened to stand as an Independent Conservative in Winchester if Mr Browne stands in the next election.

Leading article, page 15

## Commons defence committee report

## MoD accused of 'sharp practice' over ship deal

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

A parliamentary inquiry has accused the Ministry of Defence of "at best sharp practice" by attempting to deceive Parliament and the European Commission over extra payments to Harland & Wolff of Belfast for converting a training ship.

In one of its most critical reports, the Commons defence committee traced a "bizarre fiscal gaffe" by the MoD for shifting public funds from department to department.

Its findings — as with the controversy surrounding "hidden subsidies" to British Aerospace in the Rover sale — indicate official manoeuvrings to avert the threat of the EC blocking the privatization of Harland & Wolff.

At issue is the payment of £22.5 million to the former state-owned shipbuilders to settle a claim for extra costs in converting the Italian-built container ship MV Contender Bezzant into the training ship Argus.

The Tory-dominated committee concluded that the settlement was motivated by the need to reduce the shipbuilders' debts and so smooth the way for privatization.

It stated: "The evidence before us suggests a subterfuge has been attempted upon Parliament." To pass off the deal as "the settlement of a claim on a contract completed 18 months earlier is at best sharp practice", the committee added.

"It is in any event a highly undesirable way to proceed." Reacting to the report, Mr Michael Neuber, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said the story had "a happy ending" and no

public money had been lost. There was nothing "unlawful" in the transfer of funds between departments.

"At the end of the day... the MoD ended up with a ship which was judged to be a success," he said in a BBC radio interview.

The committee's report found that the Ministry of Defence awarded the contract with "haste" to commit the funds before the end of the financial year rather than surrender them to the Treasury.

The procurement of the aviation training ship provides an example of the ill-effects of excessive rigidity in annual accounting systems, the committee remarked.

Harland & Wolff won the contract from Cammell Laird

6 Evidence suggests attempt at subterfuge on Parliament

after putting in a "very substantially" lower tender of £49 million.

The committee said: "It is reasonable to conclude that MoD was indifferent to the extent to which Harland & Wolff's price was indeed realistic, in the full confidence that another Government department would be standing by with public funds to cover any losses made. It was that calculation that has since rebounded on MoD."

The work was then held up for nine months because of a last-minute decision to try out a new approach to weapons contracts which, the committee said, was "an unfortunate misjudgement".

"The process of procure-

ment of the Aviation Training Ship was hasty and muddled. A contract was placed with a nationalized yard at a barely realistic price, based on the costs of conversion of a vessel which the yard had only inspected cursorily.

"At the last minute the decision was taken to use the contractor as a guinea pig in experimenting with a new method of contracting for a ship's weapon system, despite the contractor's lack of recent experience in naval construction."

In August 1988 Harland & Wolff claimed an extra £45.3 million, which the MoD mainly rejected. But the EC made clear it would not approve the buy-out while the claim was outstanding. It was settled at £22.5 million last July.

The committee concluded: "While the outcome of this bizarre fiscal gaffe has been that the defence budget is shielded from the effects of the settlement, we cannot as a committee of the House of Commons pronounce ourselves as content that the Treasury has sought and obtained parliamentary authority from MoD to make a payment to Harland & Wolff plc, who pass on the funds to the Northern Ireland department of economic development, who surrender it to the Exchequer, whence a matching amount is found in the next financial year as 'a claim on the reserve' to pass back to the Ministry of Defence."

House of Commons defence committee 2nd report: Supplementary estimate class 1, vote 2 — payment to Harland & Wolff plc (Stationery Office, £6.80).

## Kasparov heads off challenge

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Linares

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, and Nigel Short, the top-ranked British grandmaster, are facing their biggest challenge of the year in the category 16 tournament at Linares, southern Spain.

Category 16 is the highest officially recognized level of tournament in World Chess Federation regulations. The powerful field also includes Boris Spassky, the former world champion, and two Soviet aspirants to Kasparov's throne, Vassily Ivanchuk and Boris Gelfand, both aged 21.

The tournament is a challenge to Kasparov's powers of recuperation. During riots in Azerbaijan last month, Kasparov, a Jewish-Armenian living in Baku, flew 60 friends

and relations out of danger by chartered aircraft.

Since then, he has been advising President Gorbachev on ways to handle the crisis, including advice that Soviet troops should be pulled out of Azerbaijan/Armenia frontier.

However, after two rounds in Linares, he shares the lead with 1½ points.

His second-round game against Nigel Short has been the most exciting so far. Short, at one stage a bishop ahead, came close to victory, but when both had to make 10 moves in 30 seconds to avoid time forfeits his nerve collapsed and Kasparov won.

In the final position,

Kasparov will queen a pawn by force.

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	25 f4	g5
2 d4	e6	26 Qd3	Qe6
3 g3	g6	27 Qd2	Ne5
4 Bg2	Bg7	28 Nd6	Qxd5
5 c3	g7	29 Nd7	Qd7
6 e4	Be6	30 Rb3	Qd7
7 Ng2	Qd7	31 Rb7	Kd8
8 Ne3	Ne7	32 Bc6	Bb8
9 d4	c5	33 Rb7	Qd7
10 Ne3	Bg7	34 Nd7	Kc4
11 Qd3	Qd7	35 Bb7	Qd7
12 Kg2	Qd7	36 Rb7	Qd7
13 Nd4	Ng5	37 Rb7	Qd7
14 e4	Ng6	38 Rb7	Qd7
15 Qd3	O-O	39 Rb7	Qd7
16 e4	g6	40 Rb7	Qd7
17 e4	g6	41 Rb7	Qd7
18 Ne3	g6	42 e7	Qd7
19 Ng3	g6	43 Kd3	Qd7
20 c3	g6	44 Kd3	Qd7
21 Qd3	Qd7	45 Kd3	Qd7
22 Rb1	Qd7	46 Kd3	Qd7
23 Ne4	Qd7	47 Rb7	Qd7
24 Qd1	Nf7	48 Rb7	Qd7

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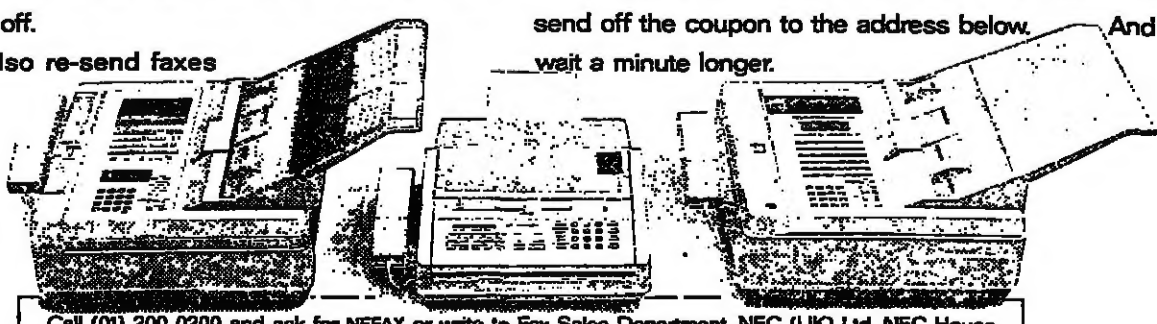
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Kidneys-for-sale case

# Doctor's secretary dismissed calls on payments to donors

By John Young

The secretary of a Harley Street specialist told a General Medical Council committee yesterday that she had attached no importance to telephone calls answering an advertisement which offered payments to kidney donors.

Knowing nothing about the advertisement at the time, Mrs Ann Whitley said she had dismissed the calls as "absolute nonsense". She had told the callers they must have a wrong number and had not noted any names or addresses.

Mrs Whitley said she had been employed as Dr Raymond Crockett's secretary at the time the advertisement appeared in international editions of *Al-Ahram*, an Egyptian newspaper.

She was giving evidence at the resumed hearing by the GMC professional conduct committee into charges of serious professional misconduct against Dr Crockett, a nephrologist; Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon; and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, relating to the alleged sale of kidneys. All three deny the charges.

Two of the charges Dr Crockett faces are that he initiated, sanctioned or acquiesced to the publication of the advertisement and that he condoned its publication by causing or permitting his secretary to answer inquiries about it informally.

Mrs Whitley said that on December 22, 1987, the day the advertisement appeared, Dr Crockett was absolutely furious when he came into the surgery. He had promptly dictated letters to the Medical Defence Union, to the editor of *Al-Ahram* and to an unnamed third person.

A copy of the letter to the Medical Defence Union was produced at yesterday's hearing. In it, he complained of receiving a telephone call from an unnamed person from whom he discovered that someone else, also unnamed, had placed an advertisement asking for kidney donors and inviting them to telephone Dr Crockett at his practice telephone number.

Dr Crockett says in his letter to the union: "I have to say that I consider this a serious matter, especially as I was totally unaware that such an advertisement had been placed and, indeed, had I been aware of the placing of such an advertisement, I would not in any circumstances have allowed my name or any organization with whom I am associated to be associated with it. Hopefully there will be no repercussions to this event, but theoretically there could be."

Mrs Whitley told Mr Anthony Arledge, QC for Dr Crockett, that she had played no part in placing the advertisement. She became aware of it after she had received "quite a lot" of telephone calls.

She did not remember details of the calls, apart from one inquiry about whether the money was to be paid in sterling or some other currency. "I remember saying to the girl who shared the office with me 'what an extraordinary thing to ask' and we both laughed about it."

Mr Arledge asked her whether she remembered ever saying to callers that payment would be made in sterling. "Absolutely no," she replied.

Had she ever said that there was absolutely no risk in a nephrectomy? "That is ludicrous, no," Mrs Whitley said.

She denied that she had told callers they could make an appointment to see Dr Crockett. She also dismissed the idea that she had told one caller, who had inquired about the identity of the would-be recipient, that it was "some rich guy from Oman". "I don't use language like that," she said.

Mrs Whitley was asked by Mr Roger Henderson, QC for the General Medical Council, whether, when she got the chance to speak to Dr Crockett on the day the advertisement appeared, she had discussed it with him. "I told him I had received a lot of strange telephone calls," she said.

Once she knew that the advertisement had appeared, that it referred to kidney donors and that Dr Crockett's name and telephone number had appeared, what had been her reaction to the calls, Mr Henderson asked.

"When the telephone rang, I simply answered that it had nothing to do with us and that was the end of the conversation."

Mrs Whitley said she had not made any note of the calls or what had been said. She denied Mr Henderson's suggestion that she had given further information.

"As a diligent, careful secretary, was it not your immediate instinct to try to keep the ball in play and make a note of their names and telephone numbers?" Mr Henderson asked. "No," she replied. "I thought the whole thing was quite ridiculous. I just didn't take any notes."

The hearing continues today.

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# Student accuses university of lying



Mr Foecke, with his wife Priscilla, displaying what he called new evidence to disprove allegations of cheating.

By Mark Souster

A student accused of cheating in his final examinations yesterday accused Bristol University of falsifying evidence.

At a press conference during lunch on the second day of his appeal against allegations of cheating and the university's refusal to award him an honours degree, Mr Francis Foecke also accused university authorities of prevaricating moving the goalposts, and "overhauling their case with further lies".

Mr Foecke, aged 32, said: "I am now in a position to prove that I was found guilty [of cheating on three questions] on false evidence by the maths department."

He said proof would be provided during the appeal being held at the University Senate House.

In 1986 a tribunal considered nine questions answered by Mr Foecke and ruled that it was beyond reasonable doubt that he had cheated in three questions in two statistics papers during his final examinations for an honours degree in computer science and mathematics. The tribunal was suspicious of the six other answers but evidence was insufficient to say categorically that he cheated.

The board of examiners wants all nine questions to be considered in the present hearing, but Mr Foecke's legal team contends that he has already been "tried and acquitted" of cheating in those questions. Mr Foecke said the university was trying to build another case by "trying to extend the ambit to cover questions where there has never been any suspicion".

The university authorities had, he said, lost vital documents, the minutes of two meetings which set out the case against Mr Foecke in June and July 1986. "The university is prepared to lose, conveniently, the basis of their case."

He was angry that he had been denied an oral examination to prove his innocence. By the time the latest appeal is heard Mr Foecke would have spent £125,000 in trying to clear his name. The hearing continues today.

## PORTFOLIO

### Belated birthday surprise

The winner of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum competition was Mrs Alicia Windbank of Blackheath Park, London SE3. Mrs Windbank, library secretary at the South Bank Polytechnic, said the prize came as a late present for her 55th birthday, which she celebrated last Saturday. She plans to give some of the money to charity and some to her two children, a student and a recent graduate.

"I shall spend any that is left on a holiday to Salzburg," she said. "It's a beautiful city and always worth revisiting. This year, I'll go for the Advent fair. I've never seen it before, and it will be the perfect opportunity to buy Christmas presents and decorations."

### Mayor gets 3-year ban after crash

A mayor was arrested at his home after he tried to push downstairs a policeman who wanted to breath test him, a court was told yesterday.

After complaints from other motorists, officers went to Mr Christopher Mason's home in Redruth, Cornwall, a week before Christmas.

Miss Louise Shields, prosecuting, said: "He had been to an office party and arrived home just after 11pm. He reversed his car twice into a parked car. This was seen by the car owner and others who contacted police."

"When police arrived Mason was in his bedroom on the first floor and tried to push an officer down the stairs when he asked him to take a breath test."

Mason, the Mayor of Truro, admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath and failing to provide a specimen for analysis. He was fined £300 and disqualified from driving for three years.

## £54,238 for veterinary blunder

By David Sapsford

The owner of a thoroughbred, steeplechaser tipped among the favourites for the Grand National two years ago, was awarded £54,238 in the High Court yesterday for a veterinary blunder that ended the horse's racing career.

Mr Justice Popplewell ruled that an operation on the horse's broken foreleg had been carried out negligently and awarded Mr Shine the damages against York veterinary surgeons, Brown Grant and Partners. They had denied the allegation.

The court was told that in March 1987 Deep South pulled up after winning a Grand National trial with a fractured left foreleg. Mr Martin Collins, a partner in the firm since 1983, carried out an operation involving the insertion of two screws.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that Mr Collins was a highly-qualified vet but there had been a failure to screw the pins into the horse's leg parallel to each other and said that that error could not be categorized as anything but negligent. After the operation an "aggressive degenerative joint disease" affected the horse.

Brown Grant and Partners said the degeneration was a result of the fracture but the judge, awarding damages and costs against the veterinary practice, concluded that if the operation had been carried out properly there were "reasonable prospects" that the horse would have run again.

Mr Shine gave his address as the Rubicon Sporting Club, Regent Street, Nottingham.

# Priest 'unwittingly signed forged will'

By Craig Seton

A Jesuit priest unwittingly witnessed a will being forged in the name of Lady Illingworth, the widow of a former Conservative cabinet minister, leaving most of her estimated £1 million estate to her niece, Baroness de Stempel, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Timothy Barnes, QC, for the prosecution, said the Baroness's country cottage effectively became a "forgery factory" as she and other members of her family conspired to strip Lady Illingworth of her wealth. He alleged that Father Joseph Dooley was invited to the house to make the forged will more credible. Three distinguished members of the Willersford family were to receive "bequests" to deflect any suspicion over the authenticity of the document.

The prosecution has alleged that Baroness de Stempel, aged 55, was not a beneficiary in a will made in 1975 by Lady Illingworth, widow of Lord

Illingworth of Denton, Postmaster General from 1916 to 1921. It is alleged that Lady Illingworth died penniless and settled in a council old people's home in 1986 after her signature was forged on more than 60 documents.

Baron de Stempel, aged 60, of Hampstead, north London, the former husband of the Baroness, and two of her children, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, of Heath House, Clangford, Hereford, and Worcester, and Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, of Stanlake Road, west London, deny conspiracy to steal from Lady Illingworth, a descendant of William Wilberforce, the anti-slavery campaigner.

The jury at Birmingham Crown Court has been told that Baroness de Stempel, of Forrester's Hall, Cottage, Docklow, Hereford and Worcester, was not being tried for reasons it should not speculate on. Mr Barnes said yesterday that apart from Baroness de

Stempel as the main beneficiary, Lady Illingworth's allegedly forged will named three others who would benefit.

They were the Baroness's brother, William Wilberforce, the former High Commissioner to Cyprus, of Markington Hall, near Ripon, North Yorkshire, and Colonel William Wilberforce, of the Royal Marines, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, who were to receive £25,000 each, and Richard Orme, Baron Wilberforce, of Kingston Upon Hull, a former Lord of Appeal, who was to receive £10,000 "in recognition of his having added lustre to the family name".

Mr Barnes said those words were not the sort Lady Illingworth would have used. The flowery, grandiose expression had the hallmarks of Baron de Stempel. By giving the bequests to men of distinction and integrity, any suspicion would be dissipated.

He said two witnesses were needed to witness the will at the Baroness's cottage, where Lady Illingworth, confused and unaware, had been invited to stay while her jewels, stocks and shares, antiques and furniture were stolen.

Father Dooley had taught the Baron's son at Stonyhurst, the Roman Catholic college, and received an unexpected invitation to spend a weekend at Docklow. Father Dooley



Baron de Stempel: Cottage a 'forgery factory'.

## Sanderson affair kept secret

The Olympic and Commonwealth javelin champion Tessa Sanderson told the High Court yesterday that she had kept an affair with a married bodybuilder secret because it would have shocked and distressed her mother.

She repeated her denials that she "stole" Mr Derrick Evans, aged 37, from his wife Jane.

She claimed she did not have sexual intercourse with him until February 1989, months after he had left his wife. She did not tell her mother that she had started to live with a married man "because it would have caused

her considerable shock and distress".

Miss Sanderson, aged 33, was continuing her evidence on the second day of her claim for libel damages over articles in the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* in March last year which accused her of enticing Mr Evans from his wife. She claims the articles were "vicious and unpleasant" and left her feeling "cheap and dirty".

Cross-examined by Mr George Carman, QC, for *Mirror* Group Newspapers, she said there was no sex during a Christmas holiday she spent with Mr Evans in Jamaica in 1988. She had shared a bed-

room with his daughter, Caroline.

She had earlier told the court that before the affair began they had a "purely business" relationship.

She agreed Mrs Evans might regard her as "callous and a bitch". If she was in the wife's position would feel the same. If she was married she would expect "honesty and loyalty" from her husband.

Miss Sanderson seeks damages from *Mirror* Group Newspapers and two journalists, Sandra White and Steven Warr, who all deny libel. The hearing continues today.

## ITV leads ratings with 45% share of viewers

ITV's viewing figures are moving ahead of its rivals' against an overall decline in television watching in the first weeks of the year (Simon Tait writes).

Figures show ITV's audience share at 45 per cent, while its nearest rival, BBC 1, had just over 37 per cent. This represents a 2 per cent increase for ITV against an overall 3 per cent drop in audiences for the four network channels.

To maintain its position, ITV is to invest £100 million in its spring programmes, which were announced yesterday.

The quiz show "The £64,000 Question" is being brought back with Bob Monkhouse lured from the BBC to be its host.

The Prince of Wales features in a documentary on young community volunteers and is interviewed by Michael Aspel.

P G Wodehouse's *Jeeves and Bertie Wooster*, first brought to television by BBC2 in the 1960s, with the late Denis Price and Ian Carmichael, returns on ITV starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie.

# Politicians say teachers' council will boost morale

By David Tytler  
Education Editor

Pressure mounted last night for a professional body to oversee the country's 400,000 teachers as leading Conservative and Labour politicians said it was an essential element in improving classroom morale.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that he would consider any firm proposals put to him.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former education minister, and Mr Jack Straw, Labour's front bench spokesman on education, told a conference on teacher morale that a General Teachers' Council together with increased pay would play a big part in improving the poor state of British education.

Sir Rhodes, the former headmaster of an inner London comprehensive school, said that the state of British education was the "Achilles' heel" of the Thatcher economic revolution.

He said a General Teachers'

Council should be set up to oversee standards and to "give a true sense of professionalism" with national colleges set up to train teachers for promotion.

Mr Straw said that such a council would not replace the unions but would maintain the status, standing and morale of teachers. In the meantime, the six teacher unions should unite in presenting a common front to the Government when asking for pay and conditions of work.

Mr MacGregor said that he would consider firm proposals for a General Teachers' Council when he received them. He denied that the plans were being blocked by his department and said the unions had not yet agreed on a suitable plan.

Sir Rhodes told the London conference of politicians, union leaders, and educationists that morale would be improved by more pay and assistance with housing in London and the South-east but that it was also necessary to raise the professional status of teachers.

He said: "Unless we start to pay

teachers properly and treat them as professionals there is no way that education will improve in Britain. Unless it is, it could put at risk all our economic and political future."

"There is no doubt that there is a crisis of confidence in the teaching profession... Never in my lifetime - which included 23 years as a school teacher and headmaster - has the morale of teachers been so low."

"In certain schools because of increased indiscipline in the classroom, a low-morale profession has also become a high-risk profession, not so much for fear of physical assault but by the strain on the nerves by the battle for order and purpose in the classroom."

● The GCSE examination has led to a decline in standards among the most able and least able children and should be scrapped in its present form, according to a report published today.

It recommends that non-academic children should be allowed to leave school at 14 to take a job or a full-time training course and that more rigorous examinations be introduced

for children who want to stay on to 16 or enter university.

In the report written for the Institute of Economic Affairs, a right-wing pressure group, Mr Lawrence Norcross, a former headmaster of an inner London comprehensive school, says that the Government must take action now to halt the decline in standards resulting from the GCSE.

He writes: "The GCSE is an examination which has lost its way before it had even started its journey. 'If it is to establish the credibility essential to its role in maintaining and raising educational standards its objectives and methods must be completely reappraised.'"

Mr Norcross says that many pupils of 14 are bored with school and receive no benefit from the GCSE. He recommends the introduction of national tests at 14 which, if passed, could allow children to leave school provided they went into employment or a full-time training course. He says that would reduce absenteeism and classroom disruption "to the relief not only of

teachers but pupils whose educational progress - and sometimes personal safety - is threatened."

Dr Peter Brown, a GCSE chief examiner and former chief examiner for O levels, writes in the same report that the academic rigour of the O levels has been lost in the new examination largely because the Government's attempts at reform are blocked by the educational establishment.

General Certificate Secondary Education (IEA Education Unit, Warrington Park School, Chesham Common, Warrington, CB3 9PB; £5.50).

● A government decision to allow one school to opt-out of local authority control would cause "major havoc" to the majority of the other children, the High Court was told yesterday.

The court was asked to rule whether Mr MacGregor was acting unreasonably when he allowed the 800-pupil Beechen Cliff boys' school in Bath to opt out from April. Avon Council's action is the first legal challenge to opt-out schools. The hearing continues today.

## Navy court martial

### Instructor thought officer was 'acting'

By David Sapsford

A Royal Navy instructor thought a trainee was playing-acting just before he collapsed from heat stroke and went into a coma on a survival exercise in the New Forest, a court martial in Portsmouth was told yesterday.

Lieutenant Gordon Smith, aged 36, denies two charges of ill-treating Sub-Lieutenant Simon Rowland, aged 23, who spent 15 days in a coma and was left with brain damage. He collapsed after going for three days without food during the course in Hampshire last July.

Although Lieutenant Smith admitted yesterday that he had made violent threats to the young officer to encourage him during the course, he said: "I feel I did as much as anyone to save Simon's life."

The instructor, a former Royal Marine, admitted he would push the recruits to the limit "and then a bit further", but he said he had believed Sub-Lieutenant Rowland was as fit as anyone else on the course. There was "no way I would deliberately hurt any one of my students," he said.

Lieutenant Smith said he saw the officer running from side to side like a drunk and thought he was acting. "I started to run back and I was shouting at him. I admit I probably called him a wimp and I may have said: 'Don't think we won't leave you here.'"

"It was at that point I became concerned. He stumbled heavily like a falling hippopotamus and it was certainly not put on. I arrived and he fell at my feet, almost on top of me."

The instructor denied allegations that he had punched the officer on the neck after he collapsed. Mr John Parmenter, a former RN petty officer, of Blackfield, Southampton, told the first day of the court martial that he was walking in the woods when he saw the instructor hit the back of Sub-Lieutenant Rowland's head.

Lieutenant Smith, of Yovil, Somerset, said Mr Parmenter had "sadly misconstrued" what he saw, although

the instructor admitted grabbing the trainee by the hair and shouting at him to get up. "My encouragement to get him up on his feet stopped him from becoming unconscious."

"I thought he had either fainted or was feeling faint. We get a lot of students who faint because they have not had anything to eat for three days. I grasped his hair with both hands and pulled his face up - and he started to get up. I asked him if he was all right, and he said 'Yes, Gordon'."

Lieutenant Smith, who said he had taken 400 trainees through the four-day course on survival behind enemy lines, said he had offered physical and verbal "encouragement" to Sub-Lieutenant Rowland.

He said he had no reason to think the recruit was suffering from heat stroke and, although Sub-Lieutenant Rowland was exhausted, he considered he was fit to take



Sub-Lieutenant Rowland: he had failed three medicals, part in the final 200m sprint across open ground in the high temperatures.

Lieutenant Smith said he had not been told that Sub-Lieutenant Rowland had failed three medicals for a place in the Royal Naval Air Service and was more than a stone overweight.

"Had I known he had failed the medical, I would not have pushed him as hard as the others," he said.

The court martial continues today.

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THE GUINNESS TRIAL

# Saunders 'ordered dealer's loss to be paid'

By Paul Wilkinson and Angela Mackay

A businessman who helped Guinness in its illegal share-support operation during its takeover of Distillers, tried to distance himself from the affair once Department of Trade and Industry inspectors began investigating the deal, the jury was told yesterday.

Mr Ephraim Margulies, chairman of the S & W Berisford food group, was paid more than £3.4 million by Guinness for buying over £14 million worth of Guinness shares, Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness' former finance director, said during his second day of evidence at the Guinness trial at Southwark Crown Court in London.

Mr Roux said that shortly after the DTI inquiry began in December 1986, Mr Parnes told him that Mr Margulies was trying to "frame him" over the payment he had received from Guinness.

Mr Parnes, who had set up the deal between Guinness and Mr Margulies, said he was trying to make it look like the company which received the payment was controlled by Mr Parnes.

Mr Roux has been granted an immunity from prosecution in return for providing detailed evidence.

Mr Roux described a meeting between Ernest Saunders, former chief executive of Guinness plc, and Mr Margulies.

It took place in late March 1986 at the height of the takeover battle for Distillers as

was just the sort of support Guinness needed.

Later Mr Parnes told Mr Roux that Mr Margulies had bought between three million and four million shares in Guinness at a cost of between £14 million and £15 million.

Mr Parnes subsequently told him that Mr Margulies had sold the shares and suffered a loss.

He told Mr Roux that he thought Guinness should pay compensation for his participation, but Mr Roux said that his understanding was that Guinness had no obligation to help Mr Margulies for his support.

He discussed the matter with Mr Saunders and they came to the conclusion that it would be better to pay Mr Margulies for good commercial reasons as he might well call in the "debt" and expect more from Guinness than he had done for them.

He talked again to Mr Parnes and they decided that it should be dealt with in the same way as they had paid off Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group; a success fee based on the capital invested and payment of his losses sustained, including interest for the time the company's money was tied up in Guinness shares.

Mr Parnes subsequently obtained two invoices from Mr Margulies which he presented to Mr Roux on June 10 1986.

One was for £1,940,000 for a company called CIFCO and the second was for £1,495,000 owed to a company named Erlanger.

Mr Roux said there were no details on the invoice about what the money was for but it seemed a reasonable amount for the support the Margulies Group had given.

He spoke to Mr Saunders, who confirmed the payment should be authorized and then produced two cheques which he gave to Mr Parnes personally to hand over. He heard nothing more about CIFCO until December 1986 when Mr Parnes contacted him saying he was concerned about the company.

They arranged dinner with their wives at Mr Parnes' home. After the meal Mr Parnes told him that Mr Margulies was attempting to make it look as if the CIFCO payment had been made to Mr Parnes personally.

Mr Parnes admitted that CIFCO had paid him a commission of £340,000 but he thought it was likely Mr Margulies was trying to make it look as if he had received the whole £1.9 million.

That was shortly after the Department of Trade and Industry had announced its investigation into the Guinness takeover of Distillers.

Later that same evening Mr Margulies arrived at the house with two business associates. One was a Mr Zuckerman, a senior executive of the Margulies' US interests and the other was Mr Charles Rosenbaum, the manager of CIFCO in Geneva.

Mr Roux spoke initially to Mr Margulies on his own during which he told him it was not true that CIFCO was a Parnes company and he would not accept that, but it was agreed that Guinness had a duty to keep CIFCO's involvement with the arrangements "out of the picture". Mr Margulies asked him "not to volunteer any connection between CIFCO and Mr Margulies and the Berisford group of companies and we

agreed we would find ways for CIFCO to show it had earned the money," Mr Roux said.

CIFCO was engaged in two forms of business. One was barter trading and the other was called paralleling, in which companies buy highly priced goods like such as perfume or alcohol in markets where the prices are relatively low to sell them in markets where prices are high.

Mr Roux said that he saw there was potential for Guinness to take advantage of that business as they suffered, particularly in Japan, from such discrepancies in prices.

It was agreed that Mr Rosenbaum would produce documents from CIFCO purporting to show arrangements of that nature. It was also agreed they should be backdated. In the next few days Mr Roux told Mr Saunders what had been agreed. "He gave no serious reaction, he just said thank you for telling me," Mr Roux said. Towards the end of December 1986 he received two letters from Mr Rosenbaum. One was dated February 26 and the second November 7. The first purported to set out an agreement between CIFCO and Guinness in which CIFCO would provide expertise and advice on penetrating Third World markets and also areas where Guinness might face financial control difficulties. It would be a two-year agreement at a fee of £1.8 million and ex-



Mr Roux (left), who gave evidence under immunity, and Mr Margulies, who is said to have bought Guinness shares worth up to £15 million and made losses when selling them.

vide expertise and advice on penetrating Third World markets and also areas where Guinness might face financial control difficulties. It would be a two-year agreement at a fee of £1.8 million and ex-

penses. Mr Roux said: "I destroyed that letter because I was not prepared to become involved in that." The second letter discussed arrangements for links within the brewing area of Guinness's activities.

Mr Roux said that early in 1987 after he had left Guinness he contacted Mr Rosenbaum in Munich on behalf of Guinness and urged him to repay the money Guinness had given them.

Mr Chadwick continued to question Mr Roux about Guinness's payment of indemnity and success fees related to Guinness's £2.6 billion bid for Distillers.

Mr Roux said that Sir Jack Lyons spoke to him in mid-June 1986 about Guinness repaying Z Bank, an Austrian institution, £250,000 it had lost as a result of buying Guinness shares to support the price during the bid. Mr Roux said Mr Saunders had agreed to compensate Z Bank.

Mr Chadwick questioned Mr Roux about Sir Jack's employment with Bain and Co, the consultants, and Mr Roux said Sir Jack had been a consultant since 1982. In 1986, for example, he had received \$100,000 as a payment for his services.

Mr Roux said in addition to the £25,000 a month contract for one year, Mr Ward, Mr Saunders and Sir Jack had agreed to pay a success fee of £3.3 million if Guinness won the bid. Mr Roux said Sir Jack "played a key role" in the takeover.

Mr Roux said he received an invoice for £345,000 for the first half of Sir Jack's success fee. That money was forwarded to J Lyons Chamberlain, Sir Jack's investment management services company, by order of Mr

Saunders. The payment voucher was dated May 12 1986. Later that month Mr Roux received a second invoice from Sir Jack for £3 million which was also approved by Mr Saunders and was subsequently paid to a Swiss company, Konsultat SA, on May 29.

Mr Parnes's success fee was negotiated by Mr Ward, Mr Saunders and Sir Jack, Mr Roux said. They decided he should receive £3.35 million. Mr Parnes invoiced Guinness in early June and requested the money be paid to a Swiss company, C and L.

Mr Roux was questioned about a \$100,000 payment made to an American lawyer, Mr Thomas Ward, in the summer of 1984.

He said Mr Ward had been unhappy about the terms of his retainer for working for Guinness and had negotiated an arrangement which gave him a \$75,000 annual fee and the \$100,000 fee as a one-off payment. The money was paid into a company based in Jersey.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC for Mr Saunders, then asked for a day before he began cross-examination to raise a point of law before the judge.

The jury is not expected to return to the court until tomorrow.

## THE CHARGES

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two charges of authorizing or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight charges of false accounting; two of theft; one of destroying company documents.

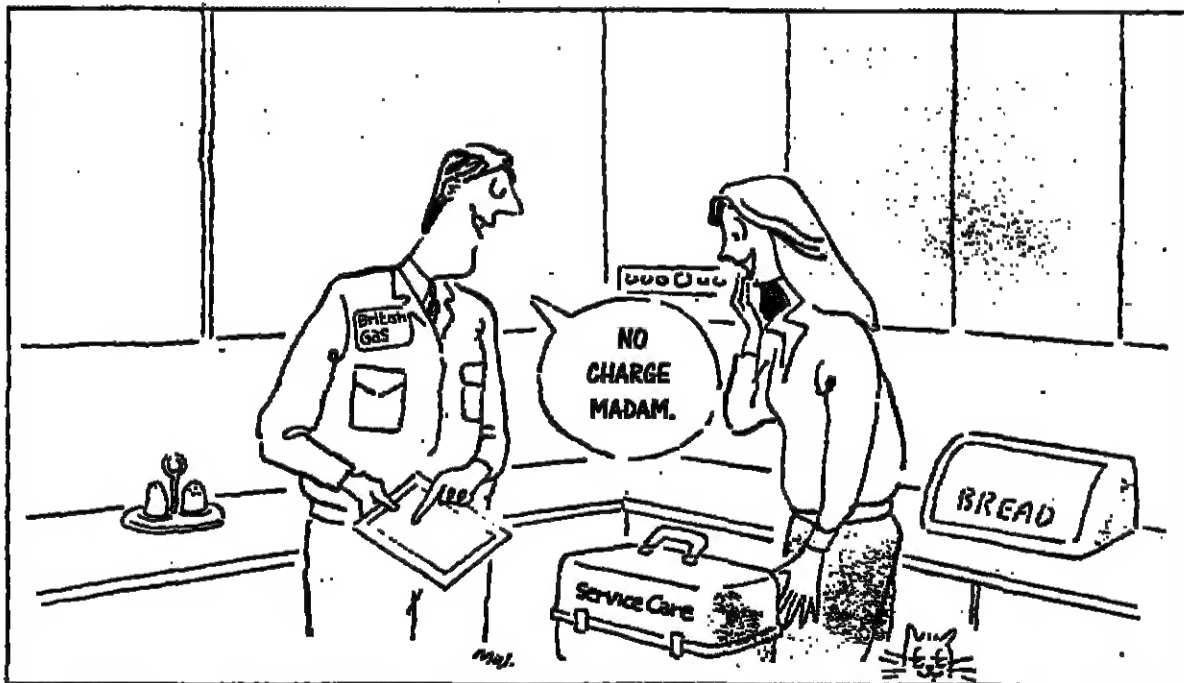
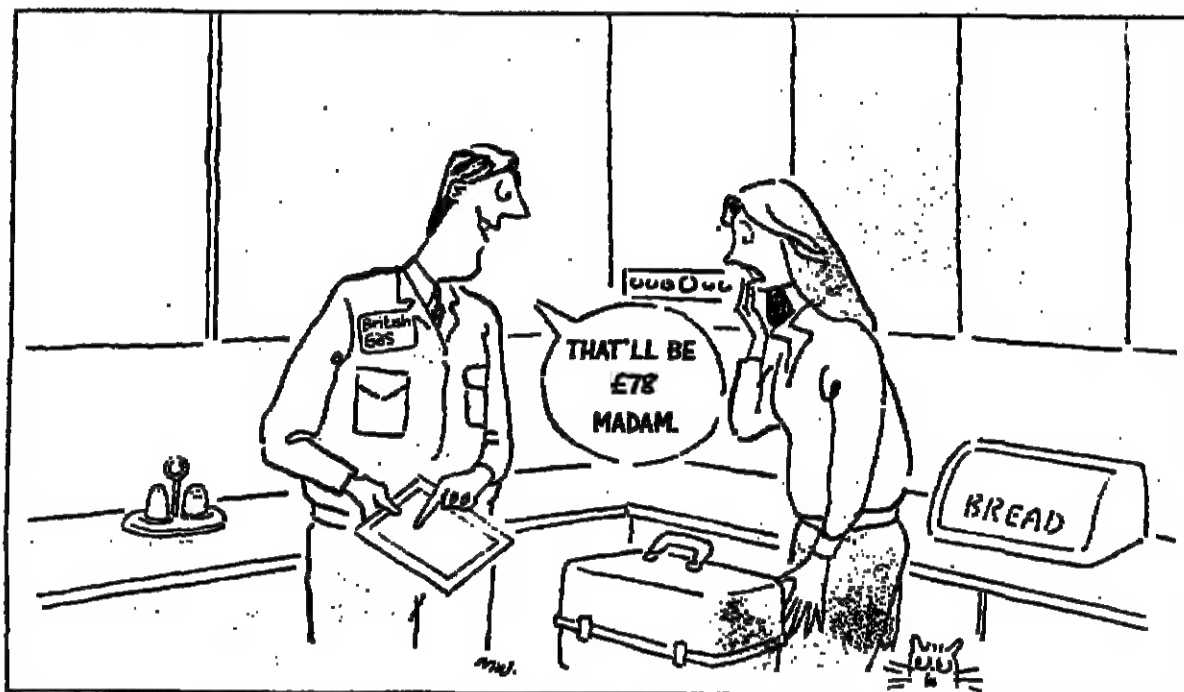
Gerald Ronson, aged 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, head of the Heron International group, one charge of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; one charge of aiding Mr Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; two charges of false accounting; one of theft. Anthony Parnes, aged 44, stockbroker, of London, five charges of false accounting; two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, financier, of Kensington, west London, one charge of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; one charge of conspiring to contravene the Companies Act; one charge of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; four charges of false accounting; one of theft.

the New Piccadilly Hotel where Mr Saunders had been staying to be close to the centre of activities.

"The essence of the meeting was that Mr Margulies would confirm that he was going to help Guinness and said he would expect nothing from Guinness except the same kind of help and comfort if he needed help in some trouble in the future," Mr Roux said.

The meeting had been arranged by Mr Parnes. Mr Roux said that Mr Saunders was grateful for the help offered as at the time it



## Help from prisoners

Four prisoners serving long sentences in a Scottish jail are refurbishing a home for the handicapped in Fleetwood, Lancashire, it was disclosed yesterday. It is the first time prisoners in Scotland have been allowed to do community work in England.

The men — one of whom is serving a life sentence and another 18 years — are from Penninghame open prison, at Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway. The Lakeland View centre, 180 miles away, has 50 disabled residents.

## Rare donation

Three Welsh donors have given blood to a woman who is seriously ill in Cincinnati, Ohio. The donors, one from Dyfed and two from Newport, Gwent, have a blood type found in one in 150,000 people.

## Boy strangled

A boy aged one, is thought to have strangled himself in his cot. Juan Roberto Perez, of Mytholmroyd, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, wore a plastic chain around his neck, which may have tightened as he slept.

## Man charged

A man aged 25 appeared before Warrington magistrates charged with the murder of David Hunt, a postmaster, in Manchester Road, Woolston, Cheshire, on Sunday. He was William James Miskimin, of no fixed address.

## Store fined

The Save It discount store, of Kingsteignton, Devon, was fined £4,500 for selling underweight fruit and for overcharging at the tills.

## Crime success

South Yorkshire had the lowest crime rate of any metropolitan area last year, in spite of having the fewest policemen per head of population.

## Sea mystery

Police are trying to identify a woman who drowned after jumping from the B&E night ferry 10 miles after it left Dublin. She was 5ft 6in tall with mousy hair and had no luggage.

## Jewels found

Jewellery worth £25,000, which was placed in a bin bag for safekeeping, was found on a council tip after a six-day search. It had been left with the rubbish at Ledstone Way, Weston Coyney, Staffordshire, by mistake. The owner, Mrs Ahmed, gave the finder £200.

## Woman killed

A woman aged 41 died in a house blaze at Beach Road, Hartford, Cheshire, but her son aged 15 and a woman aged 20 escaped. Police have not released the name of the victim.

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## Revised road transport expansion

## Big increase in trunk route network to ease congestion

By Michael Dynes Transport Correspondent

More than 500 new road schemes, including expansion projects announced in the White Paper last year and 20 additional schemes, will be largely completed by 2000, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, announced yesterday.

A new roads report, *Trunk Roads - England: Into The 1990s*, published yesterday, provides a detailed account of construction and maintenance progress of 6,600 miles of motorway and other strategic routes in the past three years, as well as the cost of construction proposals.

The report comes after the expanded roads programme announced last year, which envisages extra capacity on the present 1,795 miles of motorway networks by adding 86 miles of new motorway and widening more than 500 miles of existing motorway in the next decade. The 20

schemes added to the programme, including the widening of the M4 between junctions 12 and 14, the dualing of the last six miles of the B2060 into Dover and the dualing of the A140 across Suffolk, will add another £223 million to the cost.

The report reiterated the Government's commitment to delivering the expanded roads programme "as a matter of priority". The programme was costed in 1987 prices at more than £12 billion and is estimated to cost about £15 billion to £16 billion at present.

The report says that because higher economic activity and prosperity have led to a big increase in demand for transport and travel, there is "over three times the volume of passenger transport and twice the amount of freight transport as 40 years ago".

Recently revised traffic forecasts saw an increase of

between 83 and 142 per cent in vehicles by 2025, increasing the number of vehicles from 23 million to a maximum of 32 million in the first quarter of next century.

The report said that traffic growth had brought severe congestion, which would get much worse unless action was taken to expand the roads network.

"Action is necessary because congestion imposes higher costs on the consumer, and reduces the competitiveness of British industry; it leads to more accidents; it encourages traffic to use unsuitable roads; and it wastes fuel, thereby increasing exhaust emissions."

The report emphasizes that the "mobility, flexibility and convenience afforded by a car is greatly prized by the private motorist, which cannot be readily substituted by increased rail services. Even a

50 per cent increase in rail traffic would be equivalent to only five per cent of present road traffic," it said.

Acknowledging growing concern over the consequences of increased vehicle numbers on emissions of carbon dioxide, the principle greenhouse effect gas, the report said the greenhouse effect was a "global problem" requiring "concerted international action".

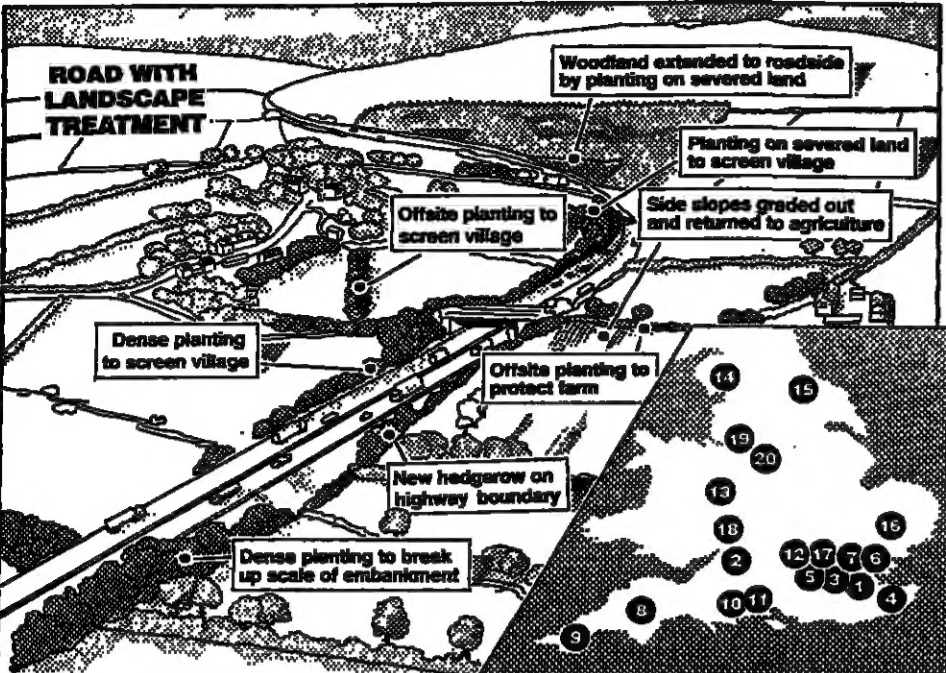
It attacked the anti-roads lobby. "The scope for reducing emissions from the transport sector - which accounts for some 20 per cent of Britain's carbon dioxide emissions - will be considered more fully there. But to stop further inter-urban road improvement would not stop traffic growth, since demand is largely determined by growth in the economy."

"Experience in urban areas, and on unimproved trunk roads, has shown that road users will put up with long delays, change their travel times or use less suitable routes where space capacity still exists. And in the short-term, conditions caused by congestion, motor vehicles produce more exhaust emissions," the report says.

The report contains initiatives to minimize the environmental impact of road construction, including improved landscaping, a substantial increase in tree planting, measures to reduce motorway noise and a £500,000 grant increase to English Heritage for archaeological works.

It said that between 1987 and last year, 83 national trunk road schemes costing more than £1 million each were completed, bringing relief to badly congested sections of motorway and trunk roads and adding 289 miles of new or improved roads.

Defending the decision to press ahead with the proposals, Mr Parkinson said: "My aim is to achieve a balance between the various forms of transport so that each can make its proper contribution to a safer, more environmentally friendly and efficient transport system."



New schemes to be added: 1 M2 widening between jns 3 and 4; 2 M4 widening between jns 12 and 15; 3 A2 Kidbrooke Park Road Interchange; 4 A2 Lydden (B2060) Dover dualing; 5 A3 M25-A245 improvement; 6 A12 Whalesbone Lane jn improvement; 7 A12 Galloway Corner intersection improvement; 8 A30 Woodleigh Grade separated junction; 9 A30 Carland Cross-Zetah improvement; 10 A31 Stag Gate improvement; 11 A31 Winterborne Zelstone improvement; 12 A40 Long Lane-West End Road; 13 A49 Craven Arms by-pass; 14 A66 Temple Sowerby jn improvement; 15 A66 Longnewton Grade separated junction; 16 A140 Beacon Hill (A45)-Scot dualing; 17 A406 Ironbridge-Needles improvement; 18 A43/A438 south of Evesham-M5 improvement; 19 A523 Packesdale-Rushon Spencer improvement; 20 A523 Miles Knot Waterhouses improvement.

## Time starts again at Hatfield

## Scrutineer of TGWU elections to quit

By Tim Jones Employment Affairs Correspondent



The 17th century wooden clock tower on Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, back in working order after being damaged by fire in 1988. A giant crane was used to lift the tower off the top of the house, 100ft up, so it could be restored at ground level. Both original lead clock faces have been replaced, one had melted in the fire (left), the other was worn away with age. The house, built in 1607 for Robert Cecil, remains the Marquis of Salisbury's family home. It is open to the public from March 25 to October 14.

Mr Rhys Vaughan, a Manchester solicitor and left-wing member of the city council, has offered his resignation as independent scrutineer of the elections for the Transport and General Workers' Union.

This follows serious allegations of ballot-rigging made in *The Independent* on Sunday newspaper, which Mr Vaughan is suing for libel.

Yesterday the executive of the union endorsed the action of Mr Ron Todd, general secretary, in re-running the ballot following the removal of a supply of ballot papers from the union's London headquarters. They expressed support for Mr Todd's efforts to find out how that happened.

The decision, which will cost the union up to £500,000, was taken by Mr Todd after the discrepancies came to light. Mr Todd said on February 9 that the ballot would have to be re-run because of a "breach of security at headquarters involving a supply of ballot papers which had been issued to members who hadn't had a chance to vote through some clerical or other oversight."

Mr Todd said yesterday he has written to Mr Vaughan regretting that he was withdrawing as independent scrutineer and assuring him of his continuing confidence "in your ability to fulfil the legal requirements of this role."

The letter added: "Nevertheless I do recognize that the scurrilous article in *The Independent* on Sunday will undoubtedly affect your ability in maintaining the confidence of the membership."

The union has asked the Electoral Reform Society to act as scrutineer for the fresh ballot, which concludes on March 23.

## Anglo-Irish talks

## Brooke wins support in province

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to meet Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Affairs Minister, in London today for talks on recent political developments in the province.

Mr Brooke is expected to brief Mr Collins on his latest round of discussions with the constitutional parties in the province.

Yesterday, after meeting representatives of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Mr Brooke said: "The great virtue of the meetings has been that matters have been brought into significantly sharper focus."

Mr John Hume, leader of the SDLP, criticized Unionist politicians for failing to agree on the conditions for talks.

Mr Hume said: "I think that one of the obstacles to talks at

the moment is that the Unionist parties haven't really got their act together and I'm saying, 'Get your act together' because we are waiting to sit down and talk to you."

The SDLP meeting came after discussions between Mr Brooke and the two Unionist leaders, Mr James Moynihan of the Ulster Unionist Party and Mr Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, on Monday afternoon. Afterwards the two leaders spoke warmly of Mr Brooke's attentive approach and his commitment to "consult and consider" before responding at a further meeting scheduled for the middle of next month.

The present position is a stand-off based on mutually exclusive approaches to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Mr Moynihan and Mr Paisley

say they are willing to talk if the Government assures them in advance it is prepared to replace the existing agreement and then agrees to suspend the Anglo-Irish Conference and the Secretariat at Maryfield.

Mr Hume will talk on condition that the status of the present agreement is not jeopardized, although he is prepared to arrive at a "superior" agreement which will "transcend" the present treaty through negotiations.

The Prime Minister was urged yesterday to set up a full judicial inquiry into allegations by Mr Colin Wallace that the security services operated a dirty tricks campaign against politicians in Ireland and the United Kingdom (Richard Ford writes).

Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour spokesman on Northern

Ireland affairs, said the inadequacies of previous investigations together with new information meant that a judicial inquiry was needed to give proper consideration to Mr Wallace's claims.

His demand came after disputed comments by a former Commander of Land Forces Northern Ireland which contradicted statements made to the House of Commons by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence.

Sir Peter Leng was reported to have been asked by MI5 officials to release material designed to discredit members of extremist groups on both sides of the sectarian divide. He was also reported to have confirmed that the Army was aware of homosexual abuse at the Kincora boys' home in east Belfast.

## Solicitors wary over training changes

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

More than 100 solicitors' firms in the City of London are being urged to attend a meeting next month to discuss controversial proposals to re-vamp solicitors' training.

The firms, which belong to the City of London Solicitors' Company, are concerned about the proposals contained in a consultative draft paper to be issued this week.

The paper seeks to make the training of solicitors more relevant and to open up entry to people from a wider background, to those who cannot fund themselves or who want to qualify part-time.

comes before the Law Society strategy committee this week, says the one-year professional course for graduates should be abolished to be replaced by a skills-oriented six-month course.

The Law Society finally examination would be scrapped. Instead, a final examination would be set by the institutions which run the final course; the Law Society College of Law and a number of polytechnics.

The examination would probably change from a test of facts to the testing of skills, with course assessment.

Mr John Young, Master of

the City of London Solicitors' Company, which represents several thousand solicitors, said yesterday: "People are concerned about these proposals."

"The traditional view is that we should retain a stiff final examination. We are all slightly mistrustful as to how, if the colleges are to test the students, one can get a satisfactorily or consistently applied method of assessment."

The consultation paper comes in the wake of earlier proposals which failed to win Law Society council backing. A small sub-committee was

set up to redraft proposals which are to come before the council meeting in May.

A fleet of buses is being laid on to bring about 4,000 students from universities, polytechnics and colleges nationwide to the first national Law Fair on March 15 and 16.

The fair, at the Business Design Centre, north London, is being organized by the University of London Careers Advisory Service, *The Times* and the Law Society.

Some 70 employers of law and other graduates will have stands. More details from: 01 387, 8221.

## American Association for the Advancement of Science conference

## Superpowers urged to release secret ice-field data

From Pearce Wright Science Editor New Orleans

The world's leading climatologists called on the United States and Soviet Union governments yesterday to release information they have gathered secretly about the thickness of the vast ice fields of the Arctic and Antarctic.

The request came at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at which members of five key research groups, four in America and one in Britain, discussed their latest calculations on the expected rise in "greenhouse effect" warming of the atmosphere.

The researchers agree that by the time the build-up of carbon dioxide discharged into the atmosphere from industry has doubled the temperature will have risen by 2.8C to 4.2C.

The pattern of monsoons and

snowfall across the world will shift, and the level of rainfall will increase between 7 and 15 per cent.

The consequences of change on this scale are dramatic. But the scientists are unable to be more precise in their predictions without a large amount of additional data.

Professor Michael Schlesinger, of the University of Illinois, said the information about the thickness of the polar ice sheets was one of six important missing pieces of the greenhouse effect jigsaw.

He pleaded for a "sea-ice glassnost" under which the American and Russian navies would release the sonar measurements of ice thickness made as an essential part of routine submarine navigations.

He said it should be a straightforward matter to provide the figures of average thickness across vast areas, together with seasonal changes, without disclosing the precise tracks and hideaways of the nuclear submarine fleets. The

disruptive consequences to agriculture and the world's economies made it essential for the data to be produced so that scientists could assess properly the extent, timing and regional impacts of global warming.

Another source of discrepancy between the forecasts of the five research groups lies in uncertainties

● They could provide the figures without disclosing submarine hideaways ●

about the influence on the atmospheric temperature of the changing composition of cloud cover.

Recent research has shown that dust generated by industry and natural events like volcanic eruptions have a greater role to play than had been previously thought.

Changes in the cloud formations could have a cooling effect by reflecting radiation back into space.

Professor Schlesinger said there were never going to be perfect forecasts because the experts were restricted by the size of computers available to process their mathematical descriptions of events. Machines 100 times more powerful than the most powerful super computers were needed.

Professor Sally Ride, the first American woman astronaut who is director of the California Space Institute at the University of San Diego, said the climatologists would soon be deluged with data from a battery of new spacecraft under a project called Mission To Planet Earth - the latest American space venture by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

The viewing of the planet from space was giving a new understanding of the factors threatening the environment, Professor Ride said.

She displayed a sequence of slides, taken by astronauts over the past 15 years, that showed the disappear-

ance of tropical forests, massive soil erosion and a 1,000-kilometre band of cloud across the Amazon basin that was caused by smoke from the burning of forests.

She said the research groups which had produced the sophisticated mathematical models to forecast climate change had to be given every help to refine them and reconcile their differences.

Each of the five groups has produced its own set of equations to form what is called a General Circulation Model or GCM. They use laws of physics and chemistry to describe in mathematical terms how the atmosphere, earth, ice and ocean systems interact to produce the climate.

The groups explore in great detail particular aspects. But they all want to feed into their calculations better information on the "Cryosphere" - the cold areas of the world - the effects of volcanic dust and changes in activity of the sun.

## Cell hopes in Parkinson cases Superconductor aerial planned

Animal experiments with brain implants of genetically engineered cells that could help damaged nerve tissue regenerate, or be tailor-made to produce substances like dopamine as a treatment for Parkinson's disease, were described yesterday at the association.

At a conference called to discuss growing controversy over the use of live foetal tissue for brain implants for treating the disease, Professor Fred Gage, of the Department of Neuroscience at the University of California at San Diego, reported the successful use in mice of cells genetically engineered in the laboratory.

When inserted into the mice, they could stimulate the production of dopamine. If the

method was proven eventually to be applicable to humans, it would avoid some of the main ethical issues of the use of foetal tissue, he said.

In the United States, government-funded research on this form of brain implants has been banned but big privately funded programmes are under way.

Professor Eugene Redmond, of the Yale University School of Medicine, said that 20 Parkinson's disease sufferers had been selected for implants over the next two years to test out a method developed at the university.

The first seven operations had been performed, employing a method of preparing the donor tissue which the Yale scientists believed could produce better results because the

tissue was more likely to be effective when transplanted.

The donated tissues replace the dopamine-producing brain cells that are deficient in people with the disease.

Professor George Allen, head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Vanderbilt University Medical Centre, Nashville, Tennessee, described using tissue taken from human adrenal glands, that also stimulate dopamine.

In a group of 18 patients, aged from 39 to 69, Professor Allen reported no deterioration after 18 months in the majority, and great improvement in six of them.

However, he said: "We do not know why because the effect of implanting does not appear to have been linked to the production of dopamine."

American scientists are proposing to use high temperature superconducting material in its first important commercial application. The material will be used to make a microwave communication antenna on a military space craft to be launched next year.

The decision has given the United States the lead over Japan, its great rival in the race to develop the technology. It was reported to the association by Dr Edward Mead of the superconductivity department of the Dupont chemical company.

Just six months earlier, scientists had feared that the promised revolution in such material had stopped.

The United States and Japan are spending \$250 million (some £150 million) a year on

research into warm superconductors and their use. The material was discovered three years ago. It is attractive because it loses all electrical resistance when cooled by liquid nitrogen.

Use of the superconductors could transform the electronics industry and the industries that make the huge generators for power stations and electricity power lines.

However, Dr Mead said the cost of producing warm superconducting material was still much too high at more than \$1,000 a lb.

Professor CW Chu, director of one of the leading research teams at the Texas Centre for Superconductivity, at the University of Houston, said that fears of six months ago about an inherent flaw in

superconductivity had receded. That was the news scientists attending the meeting had been waiting to hear.

The trouble had arisen with the discovery of a phenomenon called "flux lattice motion" in which these new materials appeared to stop working in the presence of high magnetic fields or when large electrical currents began to flow through them.

Although the problem did not pose too much difficulty for the creation of electronic materials that could be used in computers and other instruments, because they used relatively low current densities, it would have been important for the application of superconductivity in large electrical motors and large magnets.

## ABBEY NATIONAL INTEREST RATES

## Change of Mortgage Interest Rate

The rate of interest charged to existing borrowers with mortgages or bridging loans subject to 7 days notice will be increased by 0.90% p.a. for loans up to £59,999 and 0.85% p.a. for loans over £60,000 from 1st March 1990.

The same percentage increase will apply to existing borrowers subject to other periods of notice.

The standard rate will now be:

Mortgages up to £59,999	
Endowment	15.40%
Repayment	15.40%
Mortgages of £60,000 plus	
Endowment	14.75%
Repayment	14.75%

All borrowers will be advised individually of the effect of this change on their accounts.



**ABBEY NATIONAL**

Abbey National plc  
Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6NL



PAN AM 1990

PROGRESS REPORT

NO. 2

# OUR COMMITMENT TO ONCE AGAIN SET STANDARDS FOR THE INDUSTRY IS ATTRACTING TRAVELLERS IN RECORD NUMBERS.

On January 16, 1928, in a little-noted event, Pan Am inaugurated the industry's first passenger service over international waters.

A 90-mile hop from Key West to Havana. It was the beginning of a world-changing era in which a single airline defined and shaped an entire industry.

For Pan Am continued on in a progression of legendary milestones to single-handedly open the world to air travel.

From the Caribbean on to Central and South America, the Pacific, the Far East. Then over the Atlantic to Europe and on to the Near East and Africa.

Along the way, Pan Am put the first flight attendants on board, served the first meals, showed the first movies, played the first music.

Which led the industry into the kinds of enlightened customer service that travellers so enjoy today.

Pan Am also originated First Class, Economy Class, the package tour and the Fly Now Pay Later Plan.

Making it possible for some to travel the world in luxury. And for many others to travel the world for the first time.

Then something happened.

In the 1970's, Pan Am began encountering financial problems. Brought on by recession, inflation, spiralling energy costs, an unparalleled surge in competition and management mistakes.

Morale declined, service suffered and the once proud standard-bearer of the industry became just another airline in trouble.

## A \$220 MILLION COMMITMENT.

On January 21, 1988, when this management team took over stewardship of Pan Am, we did it with but one goal in mind: return Pan Am to pre-eminence by making it once again the airline of preference.

To date, nearly a quarter of a billion dollars has been committed to this effort.

The improvements in service, and in the aircraft we fly, are already so measurable that travellers throughout the world are discovering, and rediscovering, Pan Am in record numbers.

We are now carrying more passengers than ever in the history of the airline.

## A COMMITMENT BEYOND MONEY.

Money is...just money. Without the dedication, and frankly, the sacrifice of our

people - across the board - the renewal of this airline would still be more of a hope than a daily, growing reality.

And nowhere are we more fortunate than in the service area.

Our service people not only rededicated themselves to excellence, but also made personal economic sacrifices as a further, critically important contribution to this airline's survival and renewal.

The savings went directly towards adding 2,000 additional flight attendants and several hundred customer service agents to our staff.

And to extensively improve, expand and modernise our service facilities at such major airports as JFK, Heathrow, Miami and Los Angeles. As well as a number of other locations.

But it's the rededication of our service people, more than the money, that's making a difference.

They helped us develop more intensive, comprehensive, effective programmes, not only for training new service personnel, but for their own voluntary retraining as well.

Our flight attendants also developed their own evaluation and recognition system, resulting in a friendly competition for Crew of the Month, Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year.

On the ground, our airport customer service people, when tending to customer problems, now have more authority to make helpful judgment decisions on the spot.

It's their own programme. They call it "Winning Strategies," and it's working.

As is another area that should interest you.

## A COMMITMENT BEYOND SERVICE.

During the years that Pan Am was ushering in the air age, it played a major role in the design and development of virtually every significant new aircraft introduced to civil aviation.

Including the aircraft that changed the very nature of air travel.

The mighty Boeing 747, the world's first jumbo jet.

To this day, the 747 is, by far, the favourite plane for those travelling long distances. We not only operate one of the largest fleets of 747s, but 33 of them have been completely refurbished with new interiors and the latest in electronics.

The remaining two will soon be completed.

The only aircraft to rival the 747 in popularity is the spacious, wide-body Airbus.

Pan Am now operates nineteen new technologically advanced Airbus A310s. The largest fleet across the Atlantic.

Every one of our long-distance flights, international or transcontinental, now offers the roomy comfort of a modern, wide-body jet.

We're also in the process of refurbishing and providing state-of-the-art comfort and convenience in our fleet of shorter-distance 727s. Another traveller's favourite.

New galleys, lavatories, carpeting, seat-coverings and sidewalls.

In other words, our Pan Am fleet is now growing younger rather than older.

## A COMMITMENT BEYOND EQUIPMENT.

And now a word about an unseen, but critically important service.

The service we perform on our aircraft.

Through thick and thin the Pan Am maintenance programme has continued to set industry standards.

Standards so high that we spend more on maintenance per aircraft operating hour than any other U.S. airline.

So high that thirty of the world's airlines bring their aircraft to us for maintenance.

So high that the U.S. Air Force entrusts forty of its transport planes to our maintenance programme.

And our flight training standards are equally high.

We are currently training pilots for twelve major airlines, the Royal Canadian Air Force and Air Force One.

We invite you to experience the Pan Am of today.

Proud service to 116 cities in 48 countries on five continents.

Our commitment is working. Every day, on continents all around the world, people are rediscovering the travel experience that is Pan Am.

That's the way we want it.  
From now on.



Thomas G. Plaskett  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Pan American World Airways, Inc.





# Disbanded secret police swap dark glasses for uniforms

From Roger Boyes  
Warsaw

Pity the poor secret policeman: his lot is not a happy one. In Romania they were chanting "weed out the Securitate" and, after the Christmas revolution, shaved the heads of informers. In East Germany, they stormed the Stasi headquarters; everywhere there is a clamour for scrapping the machinery of the communist police state, for demobbing the shady toughs in shiny brown suits and specially tailored parkas.

Yet, in Poland, where the 1989 revolutions began, the question of whether to control or demolish the secret police has been plucked from the streets and dropped into television studios.

A recent audience-participation programme started with secret police officers agreeing with critics in the Solidarity Administration

and setting out a planned reform that would hivel off the political police from the uniformed militia. "It can't all be done at once — we need time to redesign the uniforms," explained one general.

Then the shouting began. A man in the studio audience claimed to have been beaten up by police the previous day, a lawyer demanded an investigation into the death of his father 15 years ago, junior officers started to criticize their bosses, and soon all the animosities, simmering for 45 years, bubbled over.

Police forces in communist states were explicitly designed to be the offensive arm of the party; they were supposed to protect socialism against its enemies. Now that the party has abdicated, the police form the main surviving socialist institution.

The question is whether the police should be allowed to retain

a political function. In the Soviet Union, the KGB is still an important political factor, defining to some degree the limits of perestroika. In Poland, General Czesław Kiszczak, the Police Minister, is the senior communist in the power-sharing Government.

In East Germany, the authorities are committed to dissolving the Stasi by March 31. Clearly this is not an easy task. There were 85,000 full-time security policemen and at least 109,000 collaborators; with the Army, the secret police was the biggest employer.

In Romania, the Securitate formed a series of concentric circles, with 20,000 agents at its core, and some 700,000 informers making up its outer circle. There too, the Securitate has been dissolved and some functions handed over to the Army. But former Securitate men are a constant presence, creating a back-

drop to every big political dispute. When Mr Nicolae Nicolae, the Minister for Foreign Trade after the revolution, tried to push through reforms, his bureaucrats accused him of belonging to the Securitate. He resigned even though many of his critics within the ministry were also Securitate old boys. The current leaderships in Eastern Europe are trying to hang on until this year's elections, before deciding whether to rebuild their police forces from scratch.

At the moment any form of compromise is politically expensive. The Government of Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, suffered a serious blow to its credibility when it disclosed plans to re-establish a smaller internal security agency before the elections in May.

Plainly, the policemen have not gone away. Scores have been defecting to the West, but only the

more active overseas intelligence or counter-intelligence agents have anything interesting to sell and the market is almost saturated: de-briefing centres in southern Germany are full.

Other agents have been re-training. General Heinz Engelhardt, of the East German Stasi, whose job is to dissolve the Stasi, said in an interview that "a substantial portion of our former colleagues have now been re-employed in the economy, in the health service and the Customs".

Co-operation with the KGB has been severely limited, though there are personal links between Soviet and East European counter-intelligence officers and common access to Warsaw Pact computer archives. Dr Richard Scher, the new Czechoslovak Interior Minister, expressed a widely held view, when he said: "We will stop spying only when

the West stops spying on us." The Polish plan is to separate the surviving secret police departments from the uniformed militia which will be renamed "police" and whose status will be enhanced. The uniformed police will be allowed to set up trade unions; the secret police will not, but will be de-politicized. The argument between Solidarity senators and senior police officers is over how complete this divorce should be.

The embryo unionists within the Polish police force are rightly suspicious. The Solidarity-led Government it seems, in a bid to maintain political stability, is willing to play along with their old jailers. The newly redundant secret police have been busily burning their files — lest Solidarity takes a more radical turn and open up investigations into police wrong doings. They have also been seeking new jobs in the

uniformed police. Last June, the Polish secret police had 30,000 employees; now it has just over 3,000. Although some have been setting up private businesses, most have found positions in the uniformed police.

Thus what is happening in Poland — and is likely to happen elsewhere in Eastern Europe — is a quiet merger of the secret and uniformed branches. The fudging may be necessary, but it will also be dangerous to the post-communist states.

The curriculums are being changed in police training schools, but an institution cannot easily transfer its loyalty from communism to an uncertain multi-party state. And most of those who are swapping their dark glasses for blue uniforms are in their mid-twenties or early thirties; a young, potentially hostile fifth column at the centre of the new democracy.

## Troops ordered to quell new ethnic turmoil in Kosovo

From Richard Bassett and Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav State Presidency authorized the Yugoslav Army yesterday to enforce order in the troubled region of Kosovo as the province slid towards a renewal of violence between ethnic Albanians and Serbs.

After convening an emergency meeting yesterday, the State Presidency said in a statement that the situation in Kosovo had "deteriorated seriously". Measures imposed last year to preserve order had not been respected.

These measures would have to be enforced more energetically with the "engagement" of the Yugoslav Army, the statement said.

The loose wording of the statement appears to fall short of imposing full martial law, which was last introduced in the province in 1981.

Although the Army has been seen in Kosovo on several occasions since then, it has usually been on the pretext of holding "ordinary manoeuvres".

It is too early to tell whether the Army will take over responsibility for security from the paramilitary police.

However, local journalists in Kosovo said the Army was maintaining a show of strength in the province, with tanks rolling through the towns of Titova Mitrovica and Podujevo while air force jets flew low over buildings.

Belgrade radio also reported that three policemen in Uroševac in Kosovo were wounded after demonstrators they were pursuing down a narrow side street opened fire. It said the police also fired teargas at groups who had erected barricades.

Four thousand ethnic Albanian students in Pristina held a protest rally yesterday, demanding an end to what they described as "Serbia's anti-Albanian campaign" and "state terrorism".

At the same time, in nearby Titova Mitrovica, 700 protesting miners were dispersed by

teargas. In other towns, demonstrators built road blocks as armoured cars reappeared on many streets.

The latest crisis in Kosovo, where 200,000 Serbs live beside nearly two million ethnic Albanians, comes after a month of unrest which has seen at least 33 deaths.

The ethnic Albanians believe they are the victims of Serbian police brutality. They bitterly resent moves recently announced by Serbia to "re-colonize" the province, seen as the cradle of Serbian culture.

Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, has offered



Mr Milosevic: Career built on Serbian nationalism.

financial incentives to thousands of Serbs wanting to settle in the province. Ten thousand Serbian students from the University of Belgrade are set to be relocated in Pristina, a move which appears almost calculated to provoke more violence.

Encouraged by televised scenes of crowds calling for democracy in Romania and Czechoslovakia before Christmas, ethnic Albanians have become more determined to regain their autonomy. This was removed by Serbia last spring.

According to reports, Serbian police have harassed ethnic Albanian women and shot ethnic Albanian demonstrators in cold blood. Alba-

nian policemen serving in Kosovo have begun refusing to obey orders. A contingent of ethnic Albanian police reportedly refused to fire rubber bullets at a crowd of demonstrators yesterday.

The Serbs remain unwilling, however, to engage in dialogue, and Serbian intellectuals have called for arms and even uniforms.

At most of yesterday's demonstrations, the Albanians chanted: "We want freedom" and "free Adem Demaqi" — a reference to the Albanian separatist who has spent 29 years in prison on charges of subversion. Demaqi, sometimes referred to in Kosovo as "the Yugoslav Mandela", is regarded by many ethnic Albanians as their leader.

He has called from prison for ethnic Albanians to enjoy the same rights as other Yugoslavs, but denies stirring up Albanian chauvinism. "I am burning like a candle but I am only giving light, not fire," he said recently.

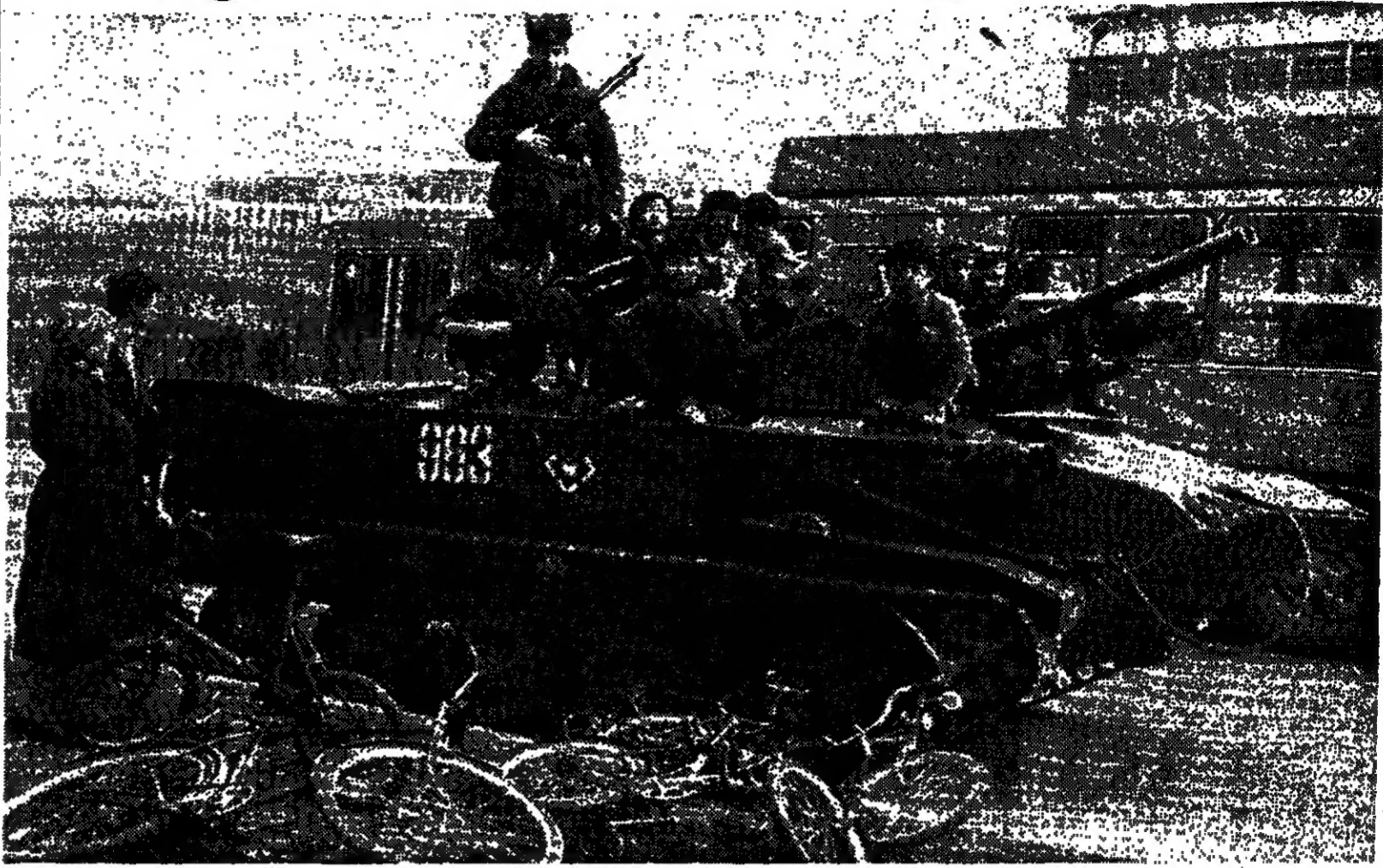
Other Yugoslav politicians see Kosovo as crucial to the future of the country. The fate of Yugoslavia as a federal entity, and its economic reform programme, hang in the balance.

But the federal Government is powerless at present to force Serbia to adopt a more conciliatory line. Mr Milosevic built his career by whipping up anti-Albanian feelings. He cannot afford to stop now.

Strife in Macedonia — Tanjug news agency reported that clashes had spilled over from Kosovo into the neighbouring republic of Macedonia, in Yugoslavia, where ethnic Albanians clashed with Macedonians and Serbs (Reuters reports).

Macedonians had attacked dozens of Albanian demonstrators in the town of Kumanovo, Tanjug said. Serbs and Macedonians staged a counter-demonstration, smashing at least one Albanian shop window.

## War games for children caught in unrest



Peaceful conquest: These children in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, recently abandoned their bicycles for the excitement of capturing seats atop a Soviet armoured vehicle. Rioting, provoked by ethnic violence, started in the Central Asian republic at week ago, killing at least 22 people, officials report.

### Growing Soviet alarm over law and order

## Moscow urges strict control of protests

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

With two of the Soviet Union's 15 republics closed to foreign journalists and big demonstrations planned throughout the country for next Sunday, the authorities have issued a series of alarms concerning possible risks to public order.

Meeting yesterday to discuss a draft law on land-use, the Supreme Soviet unexpectedly found itself confronted by an unscheduled item at the end of the morning session: a resolution directed at regional and city authorities throughout the country ordering them to ensure that street demonstrations do not get out of control and to make considerations of public order paramount at all times.

The resolution said street demonstrations should be allowed only if they met all the law's requirements: known organizers, clear purpose and agreed time and route.

It cautioned particularly against the risk that marches and mass meetings could be taken over by "extremists", and concluded: "Unsanctioned meetings will be curbed, authorized meetings must be held in specially assigned places. Perestroika and democracy should be safely protected by law."

A representative of the parliamentary commission on glasnost objected that the resolution was unnecessary and was a first step towards the total banning of public meetings.

In the event, a vote was taken to approve the original resolution in the form of an "appeal", and this was carried by a big majority.

The pretext given for the warning was the appearance at the Supreme Soviet on the previous day of leaflets about Sunday's demonstrations. Since the session had been closed to journalists and other outsiders, these could have been distributed only by Supreme Soviet deputies.

After the "appeal" was passed yesterday, many Soviet journalists covering the session expressed their reservations, predicting that the more the authorities tried to limit Sunday's marches, the more people would turn up.

"Sanctioned or not, the demonstrations will go ahead," one commented. "If you ban it, there will be a million people on the streets of Moscow."

Sunday's demonstration was planned shortly after the march and mass meeting in central Moscow on February 4, which attracted an estimated 300,000 people. The march was officially billed as being in support of perestroika, and speakers included Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical leader of the Inter-regional Parliamentary Group, and leaders of unofficial groups.

That march was approved by the Moscow authorities in advance and was widely believed to have had the approval of President Gorbachev, since it took place on the eve of the Central Committee

plenum and showed the extent of mass support for further reform.

Many of the placards displayed, however, suggested that participants also saw it as an opportunity to protest against the Communist Party apparatus in particular and communist rule in general.

Although the march passed off peacefully and was generally reported positively in the Soviet media as a new stage in glasnost and "democratization", a hostile account by Tass suggested that speak-

ers had included "extremists" who had tried to "incite violence". It was partly in response to that report that next Sunday's rally was announced.

One of its specific aims is to protest against the practice, which continues despite official discouragement, of only one candidate being nominated for some electoral seats.

Elections to the Supreme Soviets in the republics and to local government bodies began last weekend and will continue into next month.

In another indication of official unease about law and order, Pravda yesterday published a Tass report headed "Do not inflame nationalist dissension", which claimed that "anti-semitic and Zionist" groups propagating the idea of "national exclusivity" were preparing to incite nationalist dissension.

The warning purported to have been delivered at a meeting of a "public organization" called the "Anti-Zionist Committee". While condemning intolerance towards Jews, the meeting apparently warned at the same time to blame them for fanning racial hatred.

After the anti-Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan, rumors have multiplied in many cities — including Moscow and Leningrad — that pogroms

against Jews, Armenians and other minorities are being planned. So far, however, there is no evidence that any campaigns have begun, although statements from the KGB and the Interior Ministry have offered reassurance about both bodies' ability to provide protection.

In another apparent move to defuse tension, the authorities may be considering a crackdown on co-operative shops and traders, the object of much public opprobrium. Reformist economists regard them as the possible salvation of the consumer sector, but city-dwellers blame them for cornering scarce goods for resale at high prices, leaving nothing to be sold in ordinary shops at state prices.

According to a report in Komsomolskaya Pravda, the party's youth newspaper, Moscow and the central Asian republic of Kazakhstan have drafted measures to ban state enterprises from using the services of co-operatives.

A further measure which may reflect concern about the extent of political discontent and other problems is that, unannounced, vodka is being sold from 8am, thus sweeping away the last remnant of Mr Gorbachev's unsuccessful anti-alcohol campaign, which banned its sale before 2pm.

Against Jews, Armenians and other minorities are being planned. So far, however, there is no evidence that any campaigns have begun, although statements from the KGB and the Interior Ministry have offered reassurance about both bodies' ability to provide protection.

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## Bonn seeks to allay EC fears on reunification

From Michael Binyon, Dublin and Kerry Gill in London

Both East and West Germany were anxious not to cause any anxiety to the four powers in East Berlin or the European Community, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister told fellow EC foreign ministers here yesterday.

He promised that Bonn would keep its partners fully informed at every stage of negotiations over German reunification. He insisted this could only occur in the context of a strengthened Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

His reassurances came amid growing worries within the EC that the quickening pace towards reunification and the grave implications of German monetary union have left Bonn's EC partners confused.

Italy and several of Germany's smaller neighbours have complained that their interests are being ignored in the "two plus four" formula worked out in Ottawa.

Herr Genscher promised them that Bonn would stick to its commitments to the Community. He gave two specific reassurances: that a single Germany would not be neutralist, and that it would be within the borders of the two existing states.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, gave Britain's most positive welcome yet to the whole process of reunification to the European Political

Co-operation meeting here. He said Britain had always supported the principle of reunification; now it supported the process. But he admitted it had "genuine worries" that in the rush to reunification, the external aspects had been overlooked.

Germany's border with Poland, the implications for Bonn (AFP) — East and West Germans are divided on what a united Germany should adopt as its flag and national anthem, according to a poll. It found that 65 per cent of West Germans wanted to keep the flag of the Federal Republic but only 42 per cent of East Germans supported the idea. On the national anthem, 71 per cent from the West wanted to retain the present anthem, but only 23 per cent of East Germans agreed.

Nato and the effects on the European Community.

Mr Hurd called on the Brussels Commission to produce a full report on what reunification would mean for the Community.

M. Jacques Delors, the president of the Commission, promised there would be two detailed papers, as well as specific dossiers on EC policies affected by reunification.

Earlier, the ministers discussed the CSCE summit, scheduled for later this year, which is to address German

reunification in the European security context. They agreed the CSCE process should be the main forum for European security discussions, including the crucial one on Germany's future, rather than the four wartime allied powers.

Mr Hurd said the summit should lay down guidelines for future CSCE meetings. It should enshrine the principle of free elections, reaffirm human rights and propose better protection for minorities.

He also called for a CSCE mechanism to deal with the new disputes and nationalisms that were beginning to arise in Eastern Europe.

Herr Genscher's full report on the recent meeting between President Kohl and Herr Hans Modrow, Prime Minister of East Germany, was welcomed, and appears to have diffused some of the anxieties of Bonn's partners.

In Glasgow, Mr Tom King, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday Britain could not afford to relax its defences despite the current thaw in East-West relations.

Mr King, who visited the Yarrow shipyard on the Clyde, maintained that the defence of the country was too important to be put at risk by any immediate cuts.

"The situation in countries like Romania, and possibly the Soviet Union itself, is tremendously uncertain and real dangers exist," he warned.



Mrs Prunskiene: Public opinion is firmly on her side.

From Anatol Lieven  
Vilnius

Women's issues have featured on the agenda of all the movements for change in Eastern Europe. Women's faces have, however, been much rarer in the higher councils of these movements.

A likely candidate as the first woman leader of a post-communist country is Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, a Lithuanian economist, currently the Minister of Economics and Deputy Prime Minister. She is one of the "uncompromised" junior members of the Communist Party who became founder members of the national movement, Sąjūdis.

She has won fame in Lithuania and abroad for the determination with which she argued for the Soviet law on economic independence for the Baltic states, and with which, since it was passed in November, she has fought for its implementation.

Since the Russian minority in Lithuania is too small to play the kind of blocking role open to the Russians of Latvia and Estonia, Moscow's most

significant tool for keeping Lithuania in the Soviet Union, or at least slowing down the process of separation, is the integration of the republic into the Soviet economic system.

Moscow has begun to put on pressure by cancelling Lithuania's accounts with foreign banks, thereby cutting off both the republican government and Lithuanian travellers from much of their access to foreign currency.

Mrs Laima Andrikiene, assistant to Mrs Prunskiene, said that there was widespread fear that Soviet pressure could go as far as a blockade, but she was confident that by taking over war reserves of fuel Lithuania could hold out for several months, even without help from the West, since "at least we produce enough food to survive". Other Lithuanian economists take a much less sanguine view.

Mrs Prunskiene's clashes with Moscow have also brought her into conflict with conservative elements of the Lithuanian Communist Party, including Mr Vytautas Sakalauskas, the Prime Minister.

Last week he offered his resignation, saying that he could no longer work while being "blackmailed" by Sąjūdis deputies to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow and undermined by his own Deputy Prime Minister.

His resignation was rejected by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet. This was elected under the old regime and many of its deputies sympathize with the view that Sąjūdis is seeking popularity by criticizing the Government without putting forward new economic ideas.

Many also feel that Mrs Prunskiene's disloyalty has paralysed the Government. Public opinion, however, seems to be on her side, and it seems probable that Mr Sakalauskas will be replaced after elections to the Supreme Soviet beginning on Saturday.

Mrs Prunskiene, who plans to introduce a Lithuanian currency before the end of the year, has a look of determination. Her strong, humorous features may have been shaped by the effort of bringing up three children in Soviet conditions after divorce from her husband. Her candour contrasts sharply with the behaviour of her predecessors and of most politicians in the West.

هكذا من الأصل



## Crackdown as protests in Romania near anarchy

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

After two months of near anarchy, Romania's provisional government yesterday introduced new draconian laws to protect public buildings and ordered the security forces to implement legislation outlawing spontaneous protests.

President Iliescu, the pro-Moscow interim leader, claimed that the moves were necessary to prevent the country of 23 million people degenerating into "another Lebanon". He also claimed that fascist organizations using the language of the 1930s were trying to infiltrate.

His warning marks the unofficial start of what is expected to be the dirtiest election campaign in Eastern Europe. Although no names were mentioned, the remarks were assumed to be directed towards the National Peasant Party and the National Liberal Party, two recently revived right-wing groups which had been dissolved by the Communists in the 1940s.

Both favour the rapid privatization of the economy, a move rejected by the ruling National Salvation Front, which argues that such policies would result in widespread lay-offs. The thousands of pro-Front miners transported to Bucharest by three trains on Monday showed that the Front is not afraid to use its industrial muscle to push its claims.

"We have come here to support the Front. If we have to come again, I promise it will be very bad for anyone else who tries to overthrow them," said Mr Ion Gheorghe.



Mr Iliescu: Fears civil war and "another Lebanon".

### Letter from Bucharest

## Peasants with a touch of class

I was somewhat alarmed. A colleague had just informed me that if I intended to spend the night in the headquarters of the right-wing National Peasant Party I had better make sure I was on the ground floor. "I think the pro-government miners are going to set it on fire," he said. The phone rang just as I put it down: "It's a death threat," a young party member told me. By 7pm tension was running high. The Government had accused the National Peasant Party of paying thugs to storm their headquarters on Sunday - something the party vehemently denies. But now thousands of pro-government miners were heading in from the provinces and they were said to be angry. Two armoured personnel-carriers arrived and a line of troops formed outside the building. By 8pm the older generation had gone. Only 20 young party members remained inside to defend the once elegant mansion.

Rumours abounded. Breathless messengers arrived. "The miners are coming," the miners are coming. At least one party activist admitted being scared; others looked uneasy.

We waited, but the miners had gone to Victory Square. "Perhaps they don't know the way here," somebody said in the now smoke-filled room.

Something stirred in the courtyard: it was only a group of soldiers coming in for dinner.

As we waited - and the tension subsided - the young activists told me their story. They had come to the re-founded party because their grandparents had been members or because, being religious, they wanted to join a party that identified itself as a Christian democratic body; others were there, it seemed, by accident.

Miss Monica Onescu, aged 19, who had "Hendrix, Joplin" and "Beatles" written on her jeans, said that she had good friends in the party but was not a member. Her father, whom she did not like, had

a miner. "We do not want to see this country sold off to foreigners or to bosses who are going to ruin our lives."

Any doubts about who organized the demonstration were removed when a government lorry distributed free yogurt and meat pies.

Diplomats claimed that the Front also used its industrial muscle on January 28 when miners and factory workers arrived by the thousands to break up an anti-government demonstration.

"They have learned effectively from Moscow how to handle these matters and I am sure that Moscow is pleased with the result," stated one European envoy.

The public order laws coincide with the trials of 101 people arrested after anti-Communist mobs ransacked the Front's headquarters on Sunday and destroyed Communist literature and symbols. They are the first trials of demonstrators since the revolution.

The first test of the new laws, introduced by an emergency decree which stated they were designed "to ensure public quiet, a climate of safety and free expression" is expected tomorrow when the country marks the end of the second month since the overthrow of Ceausescu.

Many intellectuals maintain that since then the anti-Communist ideals of the revolutionaries have been hijacked by the Front, determined to maintain a Communist system. Their feelings are summed up by a sign on a wall: "The Revolution has been stolen".

A member of the National Liberal Party said: "On the night after the law allowing private enterprises a ridiculous maximum of 20 employees, an official appeared on television warning of the difficulties that trying to start one would cause. He made clear that a Soviet-style co-op was much more desirable."

Under regulations introduced by the Front last month, but so far ignored, street demonstrations are to be restricted to four parks in Bucharest and specified areas in other cities.

published two of her poems in the socialist party newspaper without her permission "so, to prove my loyalty to my friends, I had to join".

Mr Roberto Barlan, aged 22, is a driving-school instructor - a well-paid job in Romania. He showed me pictures of his girlfriend. "I'm here because she was killed by terrorists on December 26... I don't want another dictatorship."

Mr Stefan Columbeanu, aged 29, restores the artwork of historic churches. Last summer he and some friends secretly formed the nucleus of a Christian democratic party in the province of Gorj. On December 20 his best friend and colleague was arrested in Bucharest. His mother's friend planned to immolate herself in front of the American Embassy. He took his subversive leaflets to a meeting called by Nicolae Ceausescu on December 21. It was Ceausescu's last public meeting.

One girl was wearing an expensive leather skirt. Brave, individualistic and idealistic they may be but they generally come from middle-class backgrounds and are generally well off.

"Yes, it's a problem," admits Mr Dan Podanu, aged 31, vice-president of the party's youth wing. "It's a historic name which we've inherited. Of course, we think the land should go back to the peasants and factories should go to their workers but it's also essential that we build a new middle class."

The party is burdened with a stolid image of old men coming back to their political home after an enforced absence of more than 40 years. It is the youth who will have to recall the spectre of fascism and reach out to the veteran anti-Communists who have re-founded the party.

It was 2am. A new rumour arrived. The miners were going home. I was offered four chairs to sleep on. The soldiers came in also to sleep. The scare was over... for tonight.

Tim Judah

## Motorbike magic for Havel



President Havel of Czechoslovakia getting the feel of an Ontario Provincial Police motor cycle during a break from his hectic schedule of meetings in Toronto, Canada.

## Vodka shortage no bar to Mongolia alcoholism

From Catherine Sampson, Ulan Bator

Slumped, glass in hand, over an all-but empty bottle of vodka, Tugrik felt free to confide that "yes, alcoholism is a bit of a problem in Mongolia".

It was eleven in the morning, and Tugrik (not his real name) had grown more and more expansive on the problem of getting hold of vodka.

He is not a down-and-out, but a well-paid, well-educated young man. A bottle of vodka was a treat too good to miss, however, even at a time of day more suited to coffee drinking.

"We start to queue outside the grocery stores at seven in the morning for vodka," he said. "By afternoon it's all sold out. We have to go back every day, because the shop will only sell us one bottle each."

In fact, Tugrik considered supply as much of a problem as the drunkenness it causes. "People want it to be freely available, the way it used to be," he said.

A Westerner working in Mongolia was stunned by the drinking habits of his Mongolian colleagues. To spare them hours of queuing, he offered to buy vodka supplies from a diplomatic store for a five-day trip into the moun-

tains for their six-person group. While in favour of the trip, his Mongolian co-workers persuaded him that 20 bottles would be more appropriate. In the event, the entire supply lasted just two days.

With the Mongolian new year approaching, he buys 40 bottles of vodka a day at the diplomatic stores to distribute to his Mongolian friends. At the "Ulan Bator Beer and Spirituous Factory", 80 per cent of the workforce are women. "Women don't like vodka - men would just drink the product all day long," the chief engineer said.

The Mongolian Government has opened alcoholism clinics and has tried to limit the supply of vodka. Mongolians, one long-standing East European resident observed, "learned to drink from the Russians, and now they have to learn to stop".

The consumption of vodka also, however, has a lot to do with the shortage of entertainment, even in Ulan Bator. Ask a young man or woman what they do with their evenings, and your answer will be a blank look.

It is perhaps not surprising that people turn to drink in the

desert that is Mongolia's nightlife. True, there is one circus, complete with dancing yaks and a wolf which hurls itself at its keeper in time to music. But once you've seen one dancing yak and one jumping wolf, you've seen them all.

The new place to be seen in town is the brand-new Variety show. A blend of Soviet socialist kitsch and naive Mongolian eroticism, it rather shocks those used to the modesty of Peking. One visit, certainly, is more than enough.

Nor can one take solace in food. Ask any Mongolian if he can recommend a restaurant, and he will shrug despairingly.

At the Ulan Bator Hotel, patronized by North Korean wrestling teams and East German child-wonder gymnasts as well as local Mongolians, American Fried Chicken is served with great pride by waiters in bow-ties. It tastes the same as the barbecued pork or the fish - all fried in mutton fat and cold by the time it reaches the table.

Even the most strong-willed teetotaler might be tempted by a little fiery spirit to help it down and clear the palate.

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# Hanoi takes tough line on repatriation policy

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Vietnam officials said yesterday that no more mandatory repatriation flights of boat people from Hong Kong would be allowed for some time. The statement came amid reports that Hanoi has refused for the time being to make a private deal on repatriation flights with Britain and Hong Kong, following pressure from Washington.

Hanoi's tough line became clear yesterday after talks in Hanoi between Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister.

No date was set for another mandatory flight to follow the one made with Hanoi's agreement on December 12. The British and Hong Kong Governments had been hoping that a further flight would deter another big influx of boat people, expected next month when the annual sailing season begins.

In a separate development, a report by Amnesty International welcomed legal reforms in Vietnam, but said torture remained widespread despite steps to prevent it. It was still an offence punishable by imprisonment or "re-education" to leave the country clandestinely.

Reports in Hong Kong said Hanoi was not prepared to resume mandatory repatriation flights without the agreement of the United States Government. Sources in London and Geneva said Hanoi was holding back to avoid antagonizing Washington, which strongly opposes the British repatriation policy. Its

main priority was to persuade the United States to drop its embargo on aid, which has applied since the end of the Vietnam war.

Mr Maude went to Vietnam ready to break the US embargo, hoping that this would encourage Hanoi to accept a three-sided deal separate from the stalled 29-nation Geneva talks. He is believed to have offered to pay for reception facilities for the returning boat



Mr Maude: Ready to break the US embargo on aid, while holding out a prospect of wider aid.

Vietnam has been stalling British requests for another flight since early January, refusing to agree to names on a flight list prepared by the Hong Kong authorities.

It argued that it was shocked by international condemnation of the first flight, in which 51 people were rescued from their beds at night and put on a plane. Hanoi implied that Britain and Hong Kong had mishandled the flight and should have used persuasion

rather than force. The British claimed no force was used.

It has been clear since mid-January that the US has a strong influence on Vietnam's conduct. They were the only countries to oppose a compromise that was nearly reached at a meeting of the steering committee of the 29-nation International Conference on Indochina Refugees in Geneva. All other countries were prepared to allow mandatory flights to go ahead after a six-month delay, but Washington held out for 12 months, while Hanoi proposed nine months.

Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was appointed to mediate, but his efforts show little sign of success. Washington has not yet replied to his soundings, and Hanoi has made it clear it will wait for the American response. Mr Maude went to see Mr Stoltenberg in Geneva just before flying to Hanoi.

The British attempt to break out of the multilateral approach reflected desperation over the imminence of the sailing season. But the United States authorities are understood to have made it clear to Hanoi that such a deal could affect its hopes of getting the aid embargo dropped. The row reflects a clash of priorities between Washington and London, which hopes a tough line on the boat people may soften criticism in Hong Kong over its deal with China on limited steps to democracy.

Amnesty International, in its report on legal reforms in

Vietnam, recognized some improvements but said human rights violations continued. The reforms included the introduction of the principle that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and the right to a legal defence. However there were still "serious shortcomings" in the judicial process.

Thousands of people, including about 1,500 political prisoners, were released in 1987 and 1988. But Amnesty said many were still detained without trial or held in "re-education camps".

It was disturbed by continuing reports of detainees being routinely beaten by guards, held in shackles or leg irons, and kept on a reduced diet. The Government had taken steps to prevent torture, but statements by former detainees suggested that it remained widespread.

● HONG KONG — Four more Vietnamese boat people attempted to disembowel themselves in Hong Kong's most crowded detention centre yesterday, in protest at a screening policy which had labelled them non-refugees (Jonathan Braude writes). Soon afterwards a riot broke out between rival factions at the Whitehead Centre.

The four men had stationed themselves outside the office at the camp of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and stabbed themselves in the stomach with homemade weapons. They were taken to hospital but refused treatment by government doctors.

Leading article, page 15

## Dutch police swoop on squatters



A squatter trying to escape into a caravan from police who raided an Amsterdam house yesterday. More than 300 riot police fired water-cannon and teargas in the operation, and the seven squatters and 51 of their supporters were arrested.

## Yard to aid inquiry into Kenya minister's death

From A Correspondent, Nairobi

Detectives from Scotland Yard and a senior pathologist have left Britain to assist Kenyan police with their investigations into the murder last week of Dr Robert Ouko, Kenya's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

At the request of the Kenyan government, Superintendent John Troon and Inspector Graham Davis of Scotland Yard, and Dr Ian West, a pathologist, have flown to Nairobi to help in the murder inquiry.

The charred and mutilated remains of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation were discovered on Friday, three days after he disappeared from his farmhouse.

According to a government statement, preliminary investigations by Kenya's chief pathologist, Dr Jason Kaviti, show that Dr Ouko was shot in the head. His .38 revolver,

containing one empty cartridge, was found near the badly burned and dismembered body which was lying in bushes and guava trees four miles from his home in Koru, near Kisumu, in Kenya's western province.

The late minister's sword walking stick, a jerrycan and a plastic bag containing clothes, money and four rounds of ammunition were also found at the scene. The time and cause of death have not yet been established.

Dr Ouko was last seen alive in Kisumu late on the evening of February 12, when he told his staff that he planned to leave early the next morning to catch a flight to Nairobi. When he failed to arrive at the airport his personal security officer telephoned to enquire where he was.

On hearing of her husband's disappearance, Mrs Christabel Ouko telephoned the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, and the police began an investigation.

On February 15, the Government made a public announcement of his disappearance and President Moi ordered security forces to start an aerial and ground search. The dead minister's body was finally discovered on February 16.

Dr Ouko was a popular and



Julie Ward: British police are investigating her murder.

well-respected politician both at home and abroad. His death has aroused intense speculation and anger throughout Kenya and sparked off numerous emotional demonstrations by students calling for "truth, justice" and the resignation of Dr Hezekiah Oyugi, permanent secretary in charge of national security, who told Kenyans not to gossip about Dr Ouko's death.

More than 7,000 students, wailing and waving tree branches — traditional mourning for the Luo tribe of which Dr Ouko was a member — marched on the office of President Moi, the High Court and to the US Embassy.

They said they were demonstrating against a cover-up by the Government, which they accused of lying about the facts of Dr Ouko's death. The students also decried Kenya's invitation to Scotland Yard to

help investigate the murder. "Why invite foreigners? Can't we conduct our own investigations?" they asked.

President Moi said that "no stone will be left unturned" in the search for Dr Ouko's killers. "The government is committed to the protection of lives of all citizens of this country," he said. President Moi described Dr Ouko as "a brilliant leader, an articulate and courageous spokesman and a loyal servant of his people".

Student demonstrations, which began on Sunday, have spread to Kenya's three public universities.

More than 7,000 students from Nairobi University, Egerton University, Nakuru, central Kenya, and Moi University, in Eldoret, western Kenya, have staged demonstrations demanding to know who was behind the killing. At a public rally at

Nairobi University campus the students have also called for a parliamentary inquiry. They wanted to know why the Government had not shown footage of Mr Ouko's public functions on television as was normal when ministers died.

● Ward report: The request for help from the Yard comes as the Kenyan authorities are studying a report by Detective Chief Supt Ken Thompson, from the Yard's serious crime branch, who went to the country last month to look at the Julie Ward case.

The Kenyans are expected to ask for further Yard help in the case following an inquiry last year which decided the British girl was murdered in a game reserve.

Dr West is one of the country's leading pathologists and has been involved in many big cases and has great experience in murder investigations.

## WORLD ROUNDUP Congress seat on cards for Jackson

Washington — The latest talk here about the Rev Jesse Jackson's political aspirations is of a possible deal to allow the black civil rights leader to become the capital's representative in Congress rather than its mayor (Susan Elliott writes). Mr Marion Barry, the present Mayor, who is under investigation for alleged cocaine use and has spent almost a month in a "substance-abuse" clinic in Florida, says he is not considering resigning. Nor is he ruling out running for a fourth term.

A handful of former strong supporters of Mr Barry are urging Mr Walter Fauntroy, the representative to Congress for the District of Columbia, to run for mayor. Such a move would leave Mr Jackson free to stand for Mr Fauntroy's old job, allowing the twice-failed presidential candidate to fend off criticism that he has never held elected office.

## UN rebukes Israel

Jerusalem — Tensions between Israel and the United Nations rose yesterday as Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, protested to Israel over the deaths of two UN peacekeeping soldiers in Lebanon (Richard Owen writes). Israel said the incident occurred just before midnight on Monday when a unit of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened fire on Arab gunmen near Tyre, hitting a UN observation post by accident and killing two Nepalese soldiers and wounding six others.

However, Mr Timor Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, said the UN post was well known to the SLA, an Arab militia equipped by Israel. Mr Goksel said the UN post had been "well lit".

## US plague on drugs

Washington (Reuters) — The US Government is studying the possibility of dropping swarms of caterpillars from the air to eat the coca crop in Peru and Bolivia and cut cocaine supplies to America. The Washington Post reported yesterday. The Bush administration has quadrupled the budget for a programme to develop chemical and biological agents to destroy drug crops. The \$3.8 million programme is testing a dye to kill marijuana and a fungus that wipes out coca. The focus, however, is the malumbeia, a moth which, in the caterpillar stage, eats the coca plant's leaves.

## Torture plea to King

Amnesty International yesterday appealed to King Hassan of Morocco to end what it alleged was systematic torture and ill-treatment of detainees in police custody in his country (Daniel Treisman writes). In a new report, the human rights organization claims that arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention incommunicado and inadequate investigation of torture and deaths have facilitated human-rights abuses.

## Caste becomes battle cry ahead of elections in India

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Across northern and western India, as crucial state election campaigns start to turn caste and religious loyalties into battle cries, a single word is being daubed ominously on walls: *Aarakshan*. It means reservation.

The word, often with two lines slashed through it, amounts to a warning by high-caste Hindus against maintaining job reservations for Harijans (Untouchables) and tribal Indians — the lowest and poorest in the rigid divisions of Indian society.

Job reservation is passionately opposed by higher caste Hindus, who regard it as

their right, their karma, to be above others in housing, education, jobs, money, marriage — in fact, in everything.

This is the ancient order of things, and caste-based reservations interfere with the reassuring notion that inferior status is the price of bad conduct in a previous life.

Riots against reservation have taken an unknown number of lives since they erupted in December, when the new Government took office. The clashes were based on a misunderstanding of the Government's plans, which provided only for a 10-year extension of a system of reserving seats in

state legislatures for Harijans and others of their kind. It was wrongly assumed that hated job quotas, too, were being extended.

What is at stake in the muddled battle is the future of a 1980 proposal by the Mandal Commission to reserve every second state job and education post to low-caste or non-caste Hindus, defined as Other Backward Classes (OBCs), who make up more than half the population.

It was a staggering proposal: it seemed to higher-caste Hindus that practically every job was being reserved for an OBC, a Harijan or a tribal.

Since then, the Supreme Court has ruled that only 27 per cent of government jobs and seats in educational institutions should be reserved for OBCs.

Upper caste youths have waged the main battle against reservation, forcing the Government to temper its enthusiasm for implementing the amended Mandal Commission plan in full. A relatively new Harijan and OBCs' political party, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), has accused upper castes of resisting change to an archaic system that bestows inferiority on most Indians at birth.

Job reservation has done

little to improve the lot of Harijans and tribals. In line with classic Indian practice, rules have been ignored with impunity. Job reservations in government are hardly ever completely filled. The official excuse is that there are insufficient qualified candidates — hardly surprising since educational reservations for Harijans, too, are rarely filled.

The row has focused attention on the impossible complexities of caste as a means of defining "backwardness". A particular caste in one area may be at the bottom of the social pile; in another part of the country that category

might consist of landowners. Nobody, however, has yet produced a viable alternative for broadly defining the most deprived Indians.

Caste loyalties will be played out in assembly elections in eight states next Tuesday — Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh. The reservation issue is stirring up feelings in some of them — hence the Government's steadfast silence about precisely what it plans to do about the dog-eared, dust-covered and unimplemented Mandal Commission report.

## Republican sets sights on Sacramento mansion

# Presidential-style race for California lacks people and interest

From Peter Stothard, Los Angeles

Mr Wan Li, president of the Six Companies of San Francisco, had a prediction to make: that his honoured guest, sitting among the paper lanterns and the price lists for crispy fried oysters, would be the next president of the United States.

For the guest himself, a slight, 56-year-old US senator named Mr Pete Wilson, this was not a wholly welcome announcement. He was in Chinatown to promote his bid for a different job, the governorship of California.

The governor's mansion in Sacramento is still best known to outsiders as the place which prepared Ronald Reagan for the White House. But no candidate likes to appear too greedy too soon. The California race is critical in itself. When it ends in November it will almost certainly have been the most expensive of any campaign except that for the presidency. Its winner will have powers to redraw California's congressional seats in ways which will influence the shape of the whole United States legislature for a decade.

President Bush badly needs Mr Wilson to win. Although he opposes Mr Bush on abortion (he is a strong pro-choice advocate) and is the *bête noire* of the President's friends in the oil industry

(he is against offshore drilling), the Republican Party machine has ensured he has no opposition on his own side.

All he has to do is to use \$20 million (\$11 million) to crush the Democrats. There is more in the war-chest if he needs it. If in fighting the good fight he helps to set a new Republican agenda for the 1990s, so be it. If by 1996 the two-term senator and former San Diego mayor becomes the best placed to bid for

● He is still an object of right-wing suspicion for his support of President Ford over Mr Reagan in 1976 ●

the White House, so be it. Winning this battle is what counts.

No electorate is at the same time so big, so sophisticated in its use of information and so paradoxically difficult to reach. Last week's 3,000-mile trip — with its 14 far-flung meetings in four days — was just the beginning.

Hardly more than 200 people saw him directly as he criss-crossed the state in his campaign plane. On Tuesday he stood on the black artificial grass beside the John Wayne airport freeway, haranguing a crowd of four on the evils of the exhaust pipe. Later he spoke about

drugs to a dozen tired Latinos in Los Angeles. In his home town, San Diego, no one stopped to hear his kerbside speech about "managed growth". "Is that Pete Wilson?" asked a man in a wheelchair, who did not stop for the answer.

Even campaign-hardened journalists found it slightly bizarre. As one man from the *Los Angeles Times* put it: "This has all the trappings of a presidential campaign, except people and interest."

But the team around Mr Wilson, most of whom have been with him for many years, does not care about arousing the interest of journalists. It cares only about attracting cameras from the fiercely parochial and localised California television stations, and giving them the "hot button" line which will arouse the real crowds at home.

"Pete Wilson requires no introduction to any of the people here," concluded a local environmentalist leader as he introduced the senator in San Diego on Tuesday. This was, indeed, true. There were no people there at all.

All the polls are clear about which subject most moves the Californian electorate. Mr Wilson is allowed to be "soft" on the environment, on abortion and on welfare spending, but he has to be flint-hard on crime.

On the first day of the trip, everyone wore a badge appointing them to Pete's

Posse, a team of several hundred police chiefs and prosecutors who want more executions and shorter appeal procedures. They also want to define a new crime of torture to deal with recent much-cited cases of horrific violence.

The Posse is a big success. In the vanguard at each venue is a powerful victim's rights activist whose brother was shot and whose son was thrown from an aircraft. The media love it. This is the way to what Mr Wilson's campaigners call the "base" — a term they seem to use as both adjective and noun. They mean the middle class, mid-state millions whose votes are so much more numerous than the Hollywooders and San Franciscans for whom California is best known.

Mr Wilson is still an object of right-wing suspicion for his support of President Ford over Mr Reagan in 1976.

His opposition to the "pro-life" movement has also sapped some activist support. Several times this week he was dogged by an anti-abortion demonstrator — a piece of opposition which looked more serious (and, therefore, more serious) when it was shown on television. The cameras are scrupulously fair in their exaggerations. But the "pro-lifers" have no candidate this year to whom their efforts can bring support. The Democratic opposition is more

seriously split. California's attorney-general, Mr John Van de Kamp, and the former mayor of San Francisco, Mrs Dianne Feinstein, must fight a primary battle in June. The Wilson team is keen to face Mr Van de Kamp, whose name is twice famous in the state, for his family biscuit-making business and for his failure 10 years ago to bring murder charges against the so-called Hillside Strangler. The Strangler fiasco is con-

● Mr Wilson is allowed to be 'soft' on the environment, abortion and welfare, but has to be flint-hard on crime ●

fidently thought to outweigh any biscuit benefits to Mr Van de Kamp. On Monday afternoon, when the campaign plane was 10 minutes away from a stop with 20 raisin growers in Fresno, there was a nasty shock. With a \$600,000 advertising campaign, financed by her husband, the relatively inexperienced Mrs Feinstein has turned an 18-point opinion poll deficit into a four-point lead over Mr Van de Kamp.

"It just shows the power of TV," Mr Wilson said. But Mrs Feinstein, the only charismatic figure in the race, would bring national attention and unwelcome

predictability to the campaign. She is pro-choice and pro-capital punishment. Her advertisements stress her unifying role in 1978 after her mayoral predecessor had been shot in his office as a result of a homosexual political row.

Mrs Feinstein's chances, particularly since her husband can easily afford another few million on her behalf, look much improved.

Mr Wilson is not without woman-power. He has a glamorous singing wife, Gayle, who had written a song about how a "savvy campaigner like Pete needs your money and votes to compete" — and had no qualms about singing it for the cameras, whether in Jim Burke's Bakersfield Ford showroom or the Sacramento railway museum.

In Mr Wan's Chinatown temple she also saw the framed prophecy of Harry Truman's unexpected presidential win in 1948. The prediction for herself was two more children, a boy and a girl, an outcome she seemed to think equally unlikely.

For her husband, however, the prophetic incense sticks had been well prepared. The initial talk of the White House was tactfully not repeated. Throughout the rest of the afternoon the walkie-talkie men happily munched fortune cookies with the motto "Wilson will be Governor".

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February 20 1990

## PARLIAMENT

# Thatcher taking refuge in fiction, says Kinnock

Jubilant Labour MPs cheered their leader when he attacked the Prime Minister over poll tax at question time. Mr Kinnock accused her of taking refuge in fiction.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher got little relief when her backbenchers took up the subject, and a request from one supporter that she "go on with the arithmetic" of the community charge was greeted with derisive hilarity from the Opposition benches.

The exchanges were opened by Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North, C), who said that the rebate system for community charge was considerably more generous than the old rebate, particularly for households in the lowest income bands, which should see an average reduction of 26 per cent in the proportion of their income paid for local government.

He added that they would gain that benefit only if local authorities such as Norwich City Council resisted the temptation to raise the level of their charge and controlled their spending firmly and efficiently.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that people in the lowest income band would see a lower proportion of their income paid to local authorities because community charge benefits were more generous in the rate of rebate. Many of the single-person households that would benefit were those of pensioners and others on low incomes.

She agreed that local authorities should make strenuous efforts to keep spending down.

It had been reported that some authorities had, nevertheless, suggested a figure of £370 community charge. If rates had been retained, that would have led to an unacceptable increase of 35 per cent.

Mr Neil Kinnock: When

## PRIME MINISTER

people live in a Tory district, in a Tory county under a Tory Government, who do they blame for their very high poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: All local authorities, whatever their political complexion, should strain to keep down public expenditure so that they can keep down their community charge.

Far more Labour local authorities, extravagant and exorbitant high community charges than did Conservative councils.

Mr Kinnock: Why does she take such refuge in fiction? Does she not realize that there are plenty of people on her back benches and in her party who could tell her that this whole arrangement was a fairy story from the start, to use the words of Mr David Wiltshire (Spelthorne, C).

Is this why just one authority in the country has been able to set poll tax at or below the specified government level?

Labour MPs: No. Two.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Kinnock is perfectly well aware from the previous answer that some authorities are taking refuge in the change in order to have higher expenditure.

Therefore it is our intention, when community charge is finally set, to say precisely what the increase would have been in domestic rates... so that local people can judge whether a local authority has been wise or extravagant. They will find that most Labour councils, or those under no overall control, are far higher spending than most Conservative ones.

Mr Kinnock: Does she not understand that people are not going to pay what might have been, but much higher charges inflicted on them by her and her Government.

Mrs Thatcher: He knows that

most local authority spending is met by the taxpayer and the business rate and the rest by the community charge payer. If the county puts on extra spending, that is met by the community charge payer.

All would prefer the community charge to the Labour roof tax, she added.

Mr Tony Speller (Devon North, C) asked what had gone wrong with the arithmetic relating to the community charge. How could it be that in low-spending, low rateable value authorities such as North Devon and Mid Devon, which in the past had levied less than £190 per adult, were now levying more than £300?

Mrs Thatcher said that the figure of £300 for the community charge was based on an increase of more than 19 per cent in spending by the county council and 21 per cent and 15 per cent increases for North and Mid Devon respectively.

If the authorities followed the present pattern of spending the community charge would be £210 in North Devon and £220 in Mid Devon.

"I hope that Conservative authorities will maintain their tradition of prudent budgeting and well maintained services."

Mr Thomas Graham (Renfrew West and Inverclyde, Lab) said that more than 500,000 people in Scotland could not pay the poll tax. In the shires, Conservative councils were making huge increases in poll tax, but how many people there would not be able to pay?

Mrs Thatcher said that, bearing in mind the community charge in Scotland met only 14 per cent of expenditure by local authorities and that Scotland's earned income amounted to the fourth highest in the United Kingdom, it was not that people could not pay but it might be that some had been led not to pay by the wrong advice of others.



## Minister welcomes Acas talks on the ambulance dispute

The decision of both sides in the ambulance dispute to go to Acas today was welcomed by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health.

Speaking at question time in the Commons, he welcomed the "common sense" decision and said that he hoped that the talks would lead to a settlement.

Mr William Hague (Richmond, Yorks, C) accused the Opposition and trade unions of double standards by calling for the dispute to be referred to arbitration when they had never done such a thing themselves.

Mr Clarke said that it would be unfair to other workers and an impossible way of running the health service if groups of people only had to go on strike long enough to win their way to arbitration.

Labour had never gone to arbitration in similar circumstances.

He was glad to hear that talks at Acas were now taking place. The management of the National Health Service had always made clear it was prepared to consider the talks on the basis that had been described. "I trust that every MP hopes that the talks will succeed and the dispute will be resolved."

Mr George Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) said that the best contribution that Mr Clarke could make would be "to keep his mouth firmly shut".

Mr Clarke said that his remarks had been consistent and did not include some remarks attributed to him in the House of Commons. The NHS had made clear for some weeks the basis on which talks could take place.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said

that the whole country would want the new talks to continue until they succeeded.

In the light of the refusal of the Secretary of State to intervene, and his claim of the right of management to manage, could he assure the House that management would now be genuinely free to negotiate and, if management wished to include arbitration or another pay

agreement was that Mr Forsyth had not produced a single idea as to how the dispute would be broken. The only basis Mr Forsyth had held out for hope of a settlement was that the staff side should surrender.

While ministers had been willing to tolerate the human cost of the dispute, they had also been willing to shell out something like £25 million for army and police cover. But to meet the entire claim would cost only £10 million.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) said that it was widely believed that the Government was using the dispute to split the work into two professional staff and a non-professional staff, which would be privatized. It would be useful if the Government used this to further its dogma.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, winding up the debate, said that it was not his duty to intervene in the dispute. He said that the cost of emergency cover was about £20 million, but it was an estimate because all the bills had not come in. The costs would be met by the National Health Service.

This additional cost could not be compared with the cost of increasing the pay of ambulance staffs in one year because pay was a recurring cost.

The nationalist parties' motion, calling on Mr Clarke to renew negotiations with the ambulance staffs, was rejected by 276 to 207 - Government majority, 69. An amendment supporting the Government's handling of the dispute was carried by 255 votes to 199 - Government majority, 56.

Letters, page 15

speedy end to the dispute was to avoid making party political points. A sensible silence from ministers, officials, Opposition spokesmen and just about everyone else was required.

Mr Clarke said the advice to keep silent coming from Mr Hayes was extremely welcome. The discussion could move on to the Whitley Council where they should be resolved.

The Government predicted at question time that the fall in the number of dental inspections since charges were introduced would correct itself and the upward trend would resuscitate itself.

Mr John Smith (Vale of Glamorgan, Lab) asked how ministers could square their optimism with a survey carried out among dentists in his constituency, showing inspections to have dropped by up to a fifth.

Mr Roger Freeman said the charge was £3.45 and that represented three-quarters of the cost. Examinations had fallen immediately after the introduction of charges, but "we believe that the increasing trend of examinations will shortly resuscitate itself."

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) said that it was no use the minister hoping for a long-term trend to resuscitate itself. Dental inspection was an important element of preventative medicine and it was falling away.

Mr Freeman said some 50 per cent of patients were exempt from the charges. "We firmly believe that the upward trend will continue." He could not give a specific pledge the charges would not be increased.

Mr Clarke said that not only did he refer such a dispute to arbitration but so did Labour secretaries of state had ever intervened in the way he had been urged to. If Mr Cook agreed to be a health secretary and decided that if a dispute went on long enough he would intervene and the amount spent on pay.

Mr Robin Cook said that the aspect that caused the Opposition most concern and dis-

appointment was that Mr Forsyth had not produced a single idea as to how the dispute would be broken. The only basis Mr Forsyth had held out for hope of a settlement was that the staff side should surrender.

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Letters, page 15

## Calls for hospital controls

## PRIVATE HEALTH

A Conservative MP called at question time for health commissioners to be appointed to police private health care and to investigate complaints.

Mr John Lee (Penzance, C) said that there was increasing public concern about the level and variation of charges in the private health sector and the continuing rising insurance premiums.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, said that the Department of Health had no powers to monitor private hospital medical charges and insurance premiums.

"I do not think it is the responsibility of the Government to control these costs, but I do share his concern."

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, asked him at least to condemn excessive charges in the private sector.

It was an outrage that that Bupa should charge £168 for a cotton swab and £357 for a drug that cost £13. "How does that happen in a competitive market?"

Now that they knew, through the National Audit Office report, that the National Health Service could do operations at half the cost of private hospitals, the Government would get better value by putting public money into public hospitals rather than putting in tax relief for private ones.

Mr Freeman said that the National Audit Office had reported "good value for money" for the £50 million spent by the National Health Service in private hospitals on long-term contracts for 30,000 patients.

## Britain stands by sanctions policy

The Government's policy on South Africa was strongly defended by the Prime Minister when he said at question time that it was right that sanctions should be lifted "step by step".

Mr Alan Amos (Hexham, C) had asked her to persist in her determination to lift the voluntary ban on investment in South Africa and to confirm that other countries were investing there.

Mrs Thatcher said that President de Klerk had taken fundamental decisions that had gone further in the direction of ending apartheid than any other previous government.

"In such circumstances and the actions that he has taken, we believe it right, step by step, to

lift some of the sanctions, in particular the voluntary ones."

"There were six other countries in the Community that had voluntary bans on investment in South Africa, so Britain was not alone. There was no suggestion of lifting those sanctions that were in force by Order."

It was not possible to do anything about investment and reinvestment from profit in South Africa. BMW (South Africa) had just announced the latest £25 million instalment of a five-year investment programme of £120 million.

"This does mean jobs and security and an improvement in living standards for the work force and should be welcomed."

Leading article, page 15



Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, on board the Type-23 frigate HMS Norfolk at the Yarrow shipyard on the Clyde yesterday with Captain Jonathan Burt and Second Officer Sheila Franklin, the first Wren officer to be assigned to a ship.

## Electricity cost 'stable this year'

## ENERGY

There was no reason why there should be any increase in the average price of electricity this year, Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, told MPs.

Speaking during an Opposition debate on the effects of privatization of the industry, he said that he was now able to inform the House of his latest thinking. "The likelihood now is that the average price increase overall for the electricity consumer in April should be below the current rate of inflation."

"In fact, many industrial consumers - those above one megawatt who will be for the first time negotiating prices in a truly competitive market - will benefit from price reductions."

Where they were not able to do so - perhaps because they would need time to negotiate - the Government had sought an undertaking from the industry that it would use its best endeavours for a one-year

freeze. He expected big reductions in the average price paid by the customer for one megawatt.

Customers below one megawatt would benefit from regulations and the change to price control he had announced last week.

"I see no reason why the average price to these customers should rise much more than the current rate of inflation this year."

Price control should prevent any further increase before the end of March.

Labour put prices up; the Conservatives kept them down. He could not comprehend the Opposition allegation that preparation for privatization put up prices. That was not the case.

Opening the debate, Mr

Frank Dobson, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, moved a motion deploring the Government's obsession with electricity privatization which was pushing up electricity prices and undermining Britain's commitment to reducing acid rain.

He said that even before privatization electricity prices were being pushed up unnecessarily to boost the industry's assets.

The Government's commitment to combat acid rain was in danger of being set aside in order to reduce the industry's liabilities.

In the past three years the cost of generating electricity had fallen by 7 per cent, but average electricity bills had risen by 13 per cent and electricity board profits had gone up by 90 per cent.

Last November, the chief executive of National Power, Mr John Baker, had said that domestic consumers stood a

good chance of getting through 1990 with no price rise and not bargained with Mr Wakeham. Privatization was already proving expensive to the consumer, damaging to the environment, harmful to the balance of payments, crippling to the manufacturers and inflationary.

It was time for the Government to think again. The Secretary of State should not agree with the "backsliders' charter" on acid rain proposed by the generating companies.

Over the past decade, Britain had been the dirty old man of Europe. It was time to look ahead, to make sure that by 2000 the skies were clear, the trees were growing again and the lakes and rivers were restored to their original purity.

"That is what the people are looking for in the 1990s and they will not forgive those who put privatization in advance of those hopes and aspirations."

## Waiting lists being cut, says Clarke

The £31 million initiative to reduce hospital waiting lists would enable an extra 100,000 in-patients and day cases, and about an extra 90,000 out-patients, to be treated by the end of March this year, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said at question time.

A management team had been sent into 12 districts with the longest waiting lists and as a result they had fallen by 12 per cent, he said.

The number of patients waiting more than a year had fallen by 17 per cent, with further reductions planned. Nationally, provisional figures for September last year suggested that waiting lists, in particular the number of patients waiting more than a year, had fallen since March last year.

Mr David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab) said that the Government should collect statistics nationally on the number of out-patients awaiting treatment.

A BBC survey had shown that health authorities would have to cut spending by a third unless they received more money. If

those statistics were available nationally, it would show what people were experiencing on the ground, rather than the propaganda put out by Mr Clarke's department.

Mr Clarke said that his department collected accurate information. The results of the survey were nothing like what Mr Blunkett had described. They had shown that some districts had difficulty keeping within their cash limits but that all of them were spending more money and treating more patients.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said that part of the waiting list problem was caused by short-term budget cuts being made in hospitals because there was no funding available for the many patients that came in from other districts.

Mr Clarke said that it was a habit of the NHS for some authorities to extend their services for 10 months of the year and then to make short-term changes at the end of the financial year. In future, districts would be much better able to match funds with patients.

## Shipbuilding decision defended

The decision to end shipbuilding on the Wear at Sunderland was defended by Mr Douglas Hogg, Minister for Industry, when questioned about the future of North East Shipbuilders Ltd (NESL). Sunderland's economic future would be much better served by a more broadly based economy, he said.

Replying to a private notice question, Mr Hogg said that he had seen Sir Leon Brittan, the EC Commissioner, on February 2 to discuss the proposed sale of certain NESL sites.

Sir Leon had made clear that he would not accept any proposal predicated upon a return to shipbuilding even after the expiry of the five-year period during which shipbuilding had been precluded because of arrangements to finance non-shipbuilding developments.

"I saw the Anglo-Greek consortium (Transman Shipping and Chartering Maritime) yesterday and told them of the Commission's view. I said that limited facilities to undertake a ship repair and refurbishment operation at the NESL North Sands site would be allowed. They are considering that offer."

An enterprise zone at Southwick would be designated as soon as possible.

Mr Joyce Quin, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that the

latest announcement by the Commission in the person of the Government's own appointee made further shipbuilding on the Wear virtually impossible.

There were many national implications flowing from the Commission's decision. Japan was taking the West's share of the boom in shipbuilding orders and German yards were organizing joint ventures with their counterparts in East Germany.

Britain had lost more jobs than any other European country. Should not the Government have stood up for British shipbuilding at Sunderland more than it had done?

"The Government is guilty of failing to recognize the value of the shipbuilding industry and the role it can play in our industrial future."

Mr Hogg said that the blunt truth was that shipbuilding was cyclical. Shipbuilding at Sunderland had consumed vast quantities of public money and the Government would not be justified in subsidizing it as it had done.

Mr Quin should be more bullish about the town's future. An extensive remedial package had been put in place, including 245 million of remedial measures.

He hoped an enterprise zone there would create between 3,000 and 4,000 jobs.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) asked about "the hidden agenda" that

allowed a British Government to give in, in the most subservient way, to Sir Leon Brittan.

Mr Hogg said that there was a powerful case to say that it was not in the interests of Sunderland to return to shipbuilding.

Mr Nicholas Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne East, Lab) said that the private sector was trying to preserve shipbuilding for Sunderland as why was Mr Hogg intervening to prevent that?

Mr Hogg said that there were viable private-sector alternatives to shipbuilding. Mr Timothy Devlin (Stockton South, C) said that in the past 10 years the North-east had suffered a painful transition from old industries to new sunrise ones. They should press forward to the future and turn their backs on the past.

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) said that it would be a crime if the shipyard was demolished. It should be kept in readiness for four or five years.

Mr Philip Oppenheim (Lancaster Valley, C) said that it was creating false hopes to say that shipbuilding had a future. It had an appalling history of social management, poor labour relations and huge subsidies.

Mr Neville Trotter (Tynemouth, C) said that the future lay in the high-tech industries that would be created by the enterprise zone.

## Complaints over attack on MP

Complaints that the attack at the weekend on Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C), the father of the House, had been made by pro-abortion campaigners were made by MPs who support a tighter law.

One said that the Metropolitan Police Commissioner should be brought in to consider the implications when MPs were attacked during their "democratic duties".

Diane Peggy Fensar (Medway, C) asked the Speaker to send MPs' best wishes to Sir Bernard after the "dastardly attack on him".

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that he had sent his best wishes on Monday.

Miss Ann Widdecombe (Maidstone, C) said that Sir Bernard had been injured after an incident at the Albert Hall involving acts of violence against several MPs.

Smoke bombs had been thrown during a speech by Mr David Allon (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, Lib Dem). The incidents were part of a picket called "Stop the Amendment Campaign" with which various

MPs were closely associated. Should MPs be associated with such a campaign?

The Speaker said that if anything of the sort happened in the Commons he would take a poor view of it.

Mr Allan said that Sir Bernard had been attacked after speaking at a meeting to give details of a Bill before Parliament.

Would the Speaker ask the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to report on the incident and consider any implications if MPs were treated in this way during their democratic duties?

The Speaker said that the whole House judged such behaviour reprehensible, but he could not be responsible for the good health of MPs outside the Commons Chamber.

Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West, Lab) said that everyone deplored what had happened to Sir Bernard, but he objected to Miss Widdecombe's implication that some MPs somehow encouraged or knew about the attack.

She was impugning the integrity of those who disagreed with her and she should withdraw.



# A shadow over Britain



As black clouds from blazing tyres poison the air of a Canadian town, George Hill reports on the growing concern over our own waste disposal problem



End of the road: at Knighton, in Powys, a tyre dump which has been burning since October and (above left) how the Canadian disaster was reported

A towering column of black smoke above the little town of Hagersville, in Canada, is a signal to alert the world's conservationists to a waste problem which is ubiquitous but, as yet, scarcely recognized. A 14-acre dump of used tyres is burning out of control, and scattering toxic chemicals for miles around. The 15 million tyres have already been burning for a week at temperatures up to 2,500°F, and the blaze is so intense that firefighters have been unable to stop it. It may go on burning for six months or more, causing long-lasting pollution of the ground and water supplies by cancer-causing substances including benzene, the scourge of Ferrier.

Tyres are an almost unnoticed aspect of the environmental costs of motor traffic. Pollution from noise, vibration and car exhausts are familiar problems, but conservationist organizations such as Friends of the Earth have scarcely begun to develop research or policy positions on the problem of tyres. There are no specific official rules outside the general planning regulations to ensure that storage dumps create no fire risk.

Hagersville is likely to change that. "Until this Canadian disaster, people were not fully aware of how great a fire hazard mounds of stored tyres can be," says Rod Dowler, a partner at the management consultants KPMG Pest Marwick, who has been preparing a report on the problem commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry, to be delivered later this month.

In Britain alone, nearly 30 million tyres reach the end of the road every year. They represent 250,000 tonnes of vulcanized rubber, or the equivalent in tonnage of a fully-laden supertanker.

It has proved difficult to find new

uses for old tyres that are economically viable. Designed to stand up to years of wear and tear on the motorway, they are relatively indestructible. They cannot be melted down and used again. After all the tugboats on the coast have taken as many tyres as they need to serve as fenders, and all the farmers in Britain have spread them over their silage heaps to stop the plastic covers blowing away, millions of unwanted tyres are left over. The final form of disposal for most of them is simply to be shredded and buried. Over the years, immense

**'One possibility is to mix rubber crumb into asphalt to make a road surfacing'**

deposits of old tyres have built up under the ground.

In most cases, they are buried in a mixture with other, less inflammable, forms of refuse. This makes them less vulnerable to dramatic disasters like the one in Canada, where 15 million tyres were stored above ground on a single site. But the dangers are still real, partly because tyres are apt to accumulate in heaps because it is worth nobody's while to take them away. Tyre remould companies collect them from garages, sort out the ones that are fit to be given new treads, and dispose of the rest.

At least two major dumps in Britain have experienced fire prob-

lems. One, fully licensed by the local authority, is near Knighton, in Powys, Wales. A fire started at the end of October, probably as a result of arson, and spread deep into the accumulated masses of tyres which had been buried there over a period of about 25 years. The fire brigade managed to extinguish the surface fire within three days, but it continued to smoulder underground, arousing concern that pollution might flow into the local water supply.

"As far as I know it is still burning," a spokesman for the owners of the site, Motorway Remoulds, said yesterday. "It is buried under layers of soil, and under control. It is monitored on a daily basis by employees. At the moment we are making tests to establish the exact position of the fire, and then we may be able to inject materials through boreholes to put it out. The water situation is being monitored by the National Rivers Authority, and so far no contamination has been detected."

A similar dump near Glasgow caught fire as long ago as 1976, and was reported very recently to be still smouldering. Alarming as these subterranean fires are, they probably represent less of an environmental hazard than the relatively small dumps that accumulate in the open wherever cars are repaired or broken up and supervision is lax.

The problem of disposal would be becoming more acute even without the potential fire hazard. As sites for land fill grow scarce, the charges for dumping materials there goes up. And because the remould industry has to pay more for the huge numbers of tyres it throws away, its costs go up, too. This threatens the economics of the remould industry, which could

contract. Then, as fewer tyres are remoulded, more worn tyres will have to be dumped, adding to the waste disposal problem.

Tyres are not an ideal material for landfill, in any case. Buried intact, they are unstable and provide pockets in which pollution products can accumulate. Shredding them increases costs.

"The industry woke up to this problem some months ago, and we are looking closely at ways of dealing with it," says George Gullan, director of the British Rubber Manufacturers Association.

**'In the long run, the right solution must be using them for power generation'**

"In Australia fish farmers use them by dumping them in millions on the seabed to create an artificial reef. Some research has been done on rendering tyres down into crumbs, by freezing them. This makes them brittle, so that they can be smashed to a powder. One possibility is to mix rubber crumb into asphalt to make a road surfacing."

There is a certain appropriateness in the idea of the earthly remains of old tyres finding a last resting-place in the road surface, wearing the treads off the tyres of tomorrow. But the proposition does not look viable. In a classic environmental bind, putting recycled rubber into the asphalt makes the asphalt itself

unsuitable for recycling.

Similar technology could create a slightly bouncy ground covering for use in children's playgrounds. But as Dowler ruefully admits: "You could turn the whole of southern England into a children's playground, and still use up only a fraction of the annual tyre output."

Gullan has no doubt about the long-term answer. "If you are looking towards next week, then landfill is the only answer to the problem. But in the long run, the right solution, in environmental as well as economic terms, must be using them for power generation."

The devastating heat and the threateningly rich mix of vapours unleashed into the atmosphere at Hagersville point to the sheer physical energy bound up in the material of tyres. In this context, today's conventional answers for disposal appear wasteful. "Tyres have a similar calorific content to coal," Dowler says. "In the long run, it will appear a waste of a valuable resource simply to bury them."

The pollution at Hagersville might seem to rule out burning as an answer. But with specially-designed furnaces, using the correct "scrubbing" equipment, old tyres can be incinerated at high temperatures, with, as Gullan insists, "nothing to be seen coming out of the chimney at all".

Old tyres are already used on a limited scale to fire cement kilns. At least one tyre manufacturing company, Avon Tyres, has for 15 years operated a small plant burning tyres to manufacture steam for use in industry. In the long run, it may be usual for tyres which have reached the end of the road to go up in flames — not destructively, as at Hagersville, but to provide the energy to make their successors.

## A new danger to Flipper?

Dolphin 'circuses' at hotels are worrying conservationists, Kevin Toolis reports

It is the latest American promotional craze — come to our hotel and swim with a dolphin.

For \$65 (£38), guests at the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa Hotel in Hawaii can frolic with dolphins in saltwater lagoons carved from lava, while on the Florida Keys, three marine parks offer the same encounter for a similar price, but in the less salubrious surroundings of a concrete tank.

At the Theater of the Sea on Islamorada, in the Keys, four Atlantic bottlenose dolphins work six days a week, three times a day, entertaining human customers. Each hour-long session involves circus-like tricks: the dolphins are trained to jump through hoops held by the swimmers, who then jump on their backs and grab their delicate dorsal fins to be pulled through the water.

Dolphin swims have become a big business. Every session is booked months in advance and some centres gross more than £700 a day from their animals. And for the hotels involved, the "dolphin encounters" are a powerful attraction.

But both British and US environmental groups are deeply unhappy. British dolphin expert and former marine curator Doug Cartledge, who visited the Theater of the Sea, says: "The whole objective is to get the dolphins to give you a kiss and do silly little tricks in the water. It's pure commercial exploitation."

But the dolphins' owners deny that the swim programmes are a marine circus. Theaters of the Sea's curator, Mike Wood, says: "It's educational. The programmes can only heighten the public's awareness of these marine mammals... When people get out of the pool here they cannot wait to tell somebody down the street about it."

A brochure advertising the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa's dolphin "encounters" stresses that their programme is based on scientific research dedicated to the improvement of the animals' life in the wild and in captivity.

Cartledge, who was involved in the attempt to save two dolphins trapped in a canal swimming pool in Cairo, admits he was impressed by one centre — Dolphins Plus in Key Largo, Florida.

Dolphins Plus keeps 12 dolphins in a canal and pens for use in its swimming sessions. Visitors are required to undergo a 45-minute training lecture and are warned that the marine mammals could choose not to swim with them.

Cartledge believes that Dolphins Plus is the only facility that does not use food to control the animals' behaviour patterns. "The whole

attitude of the staff, from the owner down, was dolphins first."

Dolphins Plus opened in 1985; now there are four dolphin swim centres open, with many more planned, some of them in Italy and Spain. The Golden Nugget hotel and casino in Las Vegas has applied for permission to house six dolphins in a pool between tennis courts and the guest swimming pool.

Ten per cent of all captive dolphins in the United States are now being used in such centres. The demand for the animals has already led to a 400 per cent increase in 1988 in the number of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins captured in the Gulf of Mexico, with 56 animals being taken from the wild.

The increase in captures from a population already depleted by pollution and



On display: bottlenose dolphin

unlicensed fishing has been condemned by environmentalists. Greenpeace's Florida spokesman, Lesley Scheele, says: "Taking animals from the wild to put them in hotels reeks of commercial exploitation."

The spectacular growth in the dolphin centres led last summer to a temporary ban on new facilities by the United States Marine Fisheries Service, which has published a draft report outlining different options for their future. But animal rights groups are already demanding that all such centres should cease operating.

Nancy Hicks, of the US animal rights group, Animal Protection Institute, says: "They are a direct threat to the health of the animal through the transmission of human diseases. And there is also a potential threat to humans. The dolphins, although very gentle and intelligent, are also powerful, and there have been a number of injuries to people who have participated."

Sean Whyte of the British Whale Conservation Society says: "I am very concerned to see hotel chains becoming involved. What will happen to these dolphins when they are no longer the flavour of the month? What is their future?"



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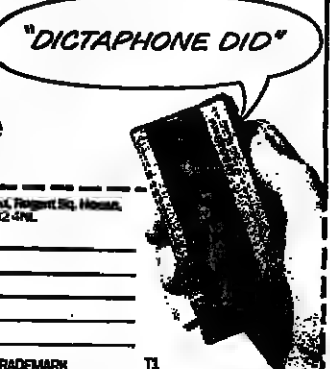
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## See Verito Venezia and . . .

"Does that mean you travel abroad a lot?" people ask when I tell them I am a journalist. When I reply that it means that I regularly travel to my study and back, they look a little sorry for me. For most people, extensive foreign travel is the only reasonable excuse for being a journalist.

For this reason, travel journalists are the only normal human beings. They are pictured swanning off with a loved one to a luxury hotel in some sunny part, there to trot out an article saying that "Madrid/San Francisco/Torquay is a city of contrasts. Contrasts of sun and shade, rich and poor, steamy nightlife and gentle vistas . . ." and so on and so forth before spending the rest of their holiday sipping umbrella-laden cocktails on the beach.

From my very occasional excursions into travel journalism, I have found this picture to be untrue. In terms of human suffering, travel journalists rank just a little worse than front-line war reporting, and just a little better than the collection of showbiz gossip.

A few years ago, a magazine editor rang to ask me whether I would care to go to Venice for a week. New to the trade, I

couldn't believe my luck. What was to follow would have provided irritation enough to keep my colleague Sir Clement Freud in articles for a year or more.

Arriving at Heathrow, I was met by a burly Italian travel representative, full of smiles. "I can't wait to be back in Venice again," I gushed. The Italian writer kept smiling, but failed to reply. I thought that he might not have heard me. "I've always loved Venice, can't wait to be back there," I repeated. Again, he just kept smiling. He then handed me a brochure detailing our trip and suggested, before I had a chance to take a look, that we board the plane.

As the plane took off, I began to look at the brochure. Of the six days, five and a half would be spent, it announced, in somewhere I shall call Verito Venezia. In my innocence, I imagined that this was an area of Venice which I had not come across before, somewhere a little off the beaten track. I caught the eye of a steward and asked him exactly whereabouts Verito Venezia was in Venice. He looked baffled. "Oh no, Verito Venezia, not in Venice," he said. "Hour, maybe two, outside."

On my arrival at Venice airport, I mentioned to the beaming travel rep that there must have been some mistake and that I had intended to write about Venice. "Verito Venezia, beautiful — beautiful," he said, shepherding me to a mini-bus. But, I said, I had imagined that we would be going to Venice. "We will,"



CRAIG BROWN

he replied, pointing to a brochure which showed that a group would be given the opportunity to be escorted around St Mark's Square between 10.30am and 12 o'clock on the final day prior to embarkation. I was then bundled into the mini-bus, where I took my place among my fellow travel writers — three Germans, two Dutch and a Swede — as we set off at all possible speed away from Venice and towards Verito Venezia.

I had imagined that there would be a general feeling of disgruntlement among my fellow travel writers at such a hoodwinking, but they all seemed as happy as Larry to be going anywhere for free. The Swede, in particular, was wildly enthusiastic, declaring his love for the airline and his love for the travel firm, and his love for every place to which he had ever travelled. Throughout the rest of our brief acquaintance, he would show me his trophies from his 20 years of trips abroad. "Ah, Airline X is so kind, so very kind," he would say, showing me free luggage, free pens, free watches, all donated by Airline X. "And they are such good friends at travel agents Y," he would continue, pulling up his trouser legs to show me a flashy new pair of socks emblazoned in the agents' logo.

Verito Venezia was most certainly not Venice. A dull, 19th century town, it had recently been developed as a spa town for tourists. Flashy new hotels had been built and

souvenirs invented, but then, within a year the spa had run dry. Alas, the town had nothing else to offer even the most easygoing tourist. So they hastily invented a grass ski slope — that's a slope with no snow on it — before arranging for friendly travel writers, of whom I was meant to be one, to be flown in. Short of a house of any possible historical interest, the city authorities had evacuated a perfectly normal family house, hastily erecting an admission box, red ropes and "please do not touch" signs to afford it an air of antiquity.

My fellow travel writers seemed happy to go along with this ruse, even as far as to applaud when, as we squeezed into a humdrum kitchen, a pair of cupboard doors were opened to reveal an utterly unremarkable set of household crockery.

At the end of the second day, I approached the still-smiling travel rep and told him that there had, indeed, been some mistake. I was meant to be writing about Venice and not Verito Venezia, so I was afraid that I would have to leave. His smile disappeared from his face. "Impossible. You will stay here," he said, before marching off, his smile restored to present some gift to the Swede.

That night, I planned my escape with military precision. The rep, I discovered did not come down to breakfast before eight o'clock. The first train to Venice set off 25 minutes earlier, so I set my alarm for 7.15am, arranging for a taxi to meet me some 500 yards away in a back street. Aboard the train watching Verito Venezia disappearing into the distance, I felt a childish elation. I was alone. I was free. I was on my way to Venice. But, I had to admit, I was most certainly not a travel journalist.

هكذا من الأصل



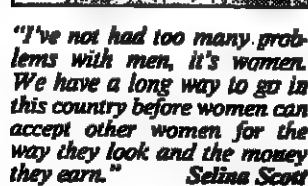
SCPR is currently recruiting and training between 600 and 700 researchers to begin what will be the "largest scientific survey of sexual behaviour ever undertaken", according to the Wellcome Trust, which is financing it to the tune of £960,000. It will be virtually the same random sample survey vetoed by Mrs Thatcher as an invasion of privacy, and should take an estimated three years



It will eventually be published in book form, Gordon says, and made available as a computerized database for researchers. And until this first comprehensive study is done, we simply have no way of knowing if marriage and sex make Britons feel great.

Respondents will not be paid for their time, as they often are by market research companies in more commercial fields, but they will be assured of the confidential-

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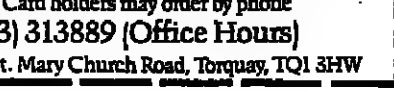


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# TIMES DIARY

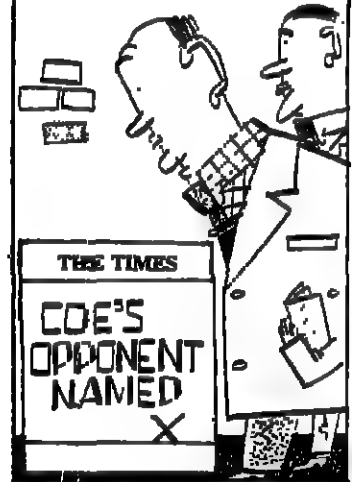
RICHARD FORD

John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, has unwittingly helped to introduce a new term into civil service jargon for punishing criminals. He wrote most of the Criminal Justice White Paper himself, liberally sprinkling the text with expressions about criminals "getting their just deserts", but being a bit of a gourmet, Patten added an extra "s" to the deserts. The task of weeding out the additional letter became such a talking point among Home Office officials that the talk led, perhaps inevitably, to the eating habits and shape of Labour's deputy leader and home affairs spokesman, Roy Hattersley. So the new phrase "Criminals getting their Hattersleys" has emerged in Whitehall. Hattersley may think this is rather unfair, especially as Patten too loves his food. Indeed, he has won praise from his friends for his culinary skill in knocking up a rice pudding renowned for consisting largely of Calvados.

Editorial standards may generally be in decline, but it is good to know that London's clubland still insists on proper dress for dinner. Emma Nicholson, the immaculately groomed Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, recently invited Clifford Stoll, an American astronomer, to dine at the Reform Club. She gently reminded him that a tie would be in order, assuming that he would naturally wear a jacket. She assumed wrongly; her guest was stopped, courteously but firmly, at the entrance. However, help was at hand. A butler's jacket was produced from the basement, allowing Stoll to proceed to dinner dressed in the unlikely combination of jacket, jeans, sneakers, shirt and a turquoise bow tie. Several days later, he is still labouring under the delusion that the Reform Club is an upholder of liberal and radical behaviour.

As the tide of history sweeps away the workers' paradises of Eastern Europe, is there any need for a bank holiday in May honouring international labour? Tory MP Robert Dunn thinks not. He is urging its abolition and an extra day in August. This year the day would honour the Queen Mother, who will be 90 on August 4 — a fitting tribute from a nation whose Royal Family has taught its counterparts in much of Europe a lesson in survival.

BARRY FANTONI



"If he comes last, will he blame a virus?"

Douglas Hurd's decision to appoint his former Home Office press officer to head the new department at the Foreign Office heralds a game of musical chairs among Whitehall's information chiefs. With Brian Mower ensconced at the FO, the job at the Home Office is tipped to go to Adrian Moore, now director of information at Trade and Industry. Moore might be relieved to leave a department headed by the free-market Nicholas Ridley, who would delight in nothing more than still greater reductions in its activities.

Tipped to rejoin Ridley, her old boss, at the DTI is Jean Caines, who served as director of information at Environment. Meanwhile Andy Wood, now at the Northern Ireland Office, is being mentioned for a transfer to Environment. That leaves Allan Percival, chief press officer at the London branch of the Northern Ireland Office, poised to take up the job in Stormont Castle. A "minder" to journalists during the Fallslands conflict and with previous information office service in the Ministry of Defence and Army headquarters at Lisburn, he is no stranger to the intricacies and sudden storms that punctuate the province's politics.

Defeating the miners was the high point of Mrs Thatcher's second term in office, expunging the NUM humiliations heaped on the Conservatives a decade earlier. But Sir Ian MacGregor might be forgiven for wondering when the Tories will stop refiguring the private battles that went on behind the scenes during that struggle. Peter Walker, then Energy Secretary, will fan the embers of the rows with an interview on Channel 4 this weekend in which he says everyone agreed that MacGregor was terrible at public relations and was way out in predicting how long the strike would drag on.

Antigua  
A block of flats has just floated past: a big, slab-sided condominium with three crew members on the foredeck and one huge, careful owner four storeys up; lounging in the shade of his outside, billiard ball set-comm system, and slithering into English Harbour for lunch.

The yachts around here are much like the yachts at Brightlingsea, that Essex haven for old salt stockbrokers ever willing to take on force four North Sea gales. In shape, that is, but not in size. In these parts, 50ft is nothing, 70ft common, a billion yards not all that remarkable. It's the 20ft Westerly with the outboard motor that turns heads on Swedish Retailer III (a private mini-liner with standing headroom in the bilges) or Swiss Chemical Heiress (90 feet of chrome and black plexiglass like a

huge sea-going kitchen utensil). The busy people's nautical bolt-holes are polished and primed for the wild blue yonder, but being busy people, they are too busy being busy to use them. So the whole flotilla is up for rent. Anyone can hire one of these beauties. Anyone, that is, with a bank or two awash with loose change.

"A very well-known film producer from Hollywood," I am told, "spends \$250,000 a year chartering." I look suitably impressed. "He doesn't want the hassle of owning his own boat," I turn down the corners of my mouth and nod in complete understanding, as one does. I

have the same feeling about television sets. It's only a matter of loose change, after all. But a boat has certain advantages over a hotel suite. Your hotel room does not usually float in a heated swimming pool full of interesting and poisonous fish. Dolphins do not jump around like mad subway surfers intent on banging their heads on the floorboards. And you cannot cut loose and propel your accommodation out into the Caribbean.

Mind you, neither can I at the moment. It was on the agenda. I had cleared my decks of odd meetings, hired 30-year-old NY Oil Broker II and handed in my essay one week in advance.



GRIFF  
RHYS JONES

that. Tempting fate. For when we popped ashore for a moment (I was unwise to do that too), somebody came running down the 18th-century dock with a 20th-century telex in his hands. "Savoy burned down," it read. "Run in jeopardy. Telephone."

"It's a lovely theatre," I wrote of the Savoy, to which *Thark*, in which I was appearing, was due to transfer from the Lyric Hammer-smith, "and a lucky one too." On reflection, I was unwise to write

their money back. Alas, he has already spent most of it, so, as we say in the business, the show must go on. André is therefore looking around every reasonably large room with seats and a raised end in central London. "Can we phone you back?" Peter asked. "I'm on a cruise to nowhere." "Well phone us when you get there." So on Wednesday I stand again in the queue to use Antigua's telephone. I speak to Loretta. "They'll know tomorrow," she says with cheery predictability. The next day I speak to Lorraine, who speaks to Anna, who finds Loretta. "You sound

like Mickey Mouse," she tells me. I do my Scrooge McDuck voice and she puts me on to Peter. "It's off. That's it. Nixed. It all seems unbelievable to me, but at these telephone rates, who's arguing? Suddenly I have more than six free days. Suddenly I have 15 free weeks. This is appalling! Marooned in Antigua! Calamity!! (This is for André's benefit.) Of course, every silver lining has its cloud. I couldn't get a mooring to enable me to go ashore and cable this piece. However, if I reach across with my handy boathook, I can just tap on the wall of an outside tub. I'm sure the zillionaire will let me use his outside billiard ball. And if he won't, well, to be frank, I don't greatly care. I'm off into that wild blue yonder before the Savoy miraculously rebuilds itself, or Prince Edward intervenes, or *The Mousetrap* folds.

## Student loans: Philip Goodhart urges revival of a well-tried system

# A pledge full of promise

sharply. The time has come for the Government to introduce an updated version of the scheme.

From the outset, the Government's student loan proposal has been criticized on the grounds that graduates would be discouraged from going into teaching or other worthy public sector jobs with low starting salaries. Certainly, many graduate teachers starting on £9,390 a year would find it difficult to repay loans of £1,500 within five years of starting their careers.

During the projected graduate shortage, many private employers will doubtless try to attract well qualified graduates with "golden hellos", including offers to repay their undergraduate loans soon after they start work.

So writing off a quarter of a graduate teacher's loan in return for each successfully completed year's teaching in a state-main-

tained school might be a bargain for the employer as well as for the young teacher. As a start, the Government could introduce an accelerated write-off scheme for those new teachers with subjects in particular demand: science, mathematics and languages.

Would-be doctors are also worried. The average doctor is better paid than most teachers, but his loan liability is likely to be higher too. Medical students face a course of at least five years, with little opportunity to find holiday jobs, and there are plenty of stories from America of doctors who leave medical school with accumulated debts of up to £50,000. The Royal College of Physicians has recently set up a study group to consider the impact of loans on medical education, and to suggest the best way to implement a loan write-off scheme.

The Government's new loan

scheme will begin at a time when young hospital doctors are complaining with increasing stridency about their hours, conditions and pay. An accelerated loan write-off scheme for them will not necessarily mean that they get more sleep, but it would give them sweeter dreams.

And what about the nurses? And graduates in professions allied to medicine? There is general agreement that we need a substantial number of graduate nurses, speech therapists and psychotherapists. The value to the community of their work is clear, but very few of these professionals are ever likely to earn much more than their income tax inspectors. People who enrol in these caring professions have arguably the strongest case of all for quick write-offs of their student loans.

The way the Government has

Loans) Bill makes it exceptionally easy — technically — for it to adopt and adapt a comprehensive loan write-off scheme. Section 1(1)(c) of Schedule 2 of the Bill gives the Secretary of State for Education the power to "make provision for the deferral or cancellation of a borrower's liability in respect of a loan".

Will the Government use this power? At the very end of the Committee stage of its passage through the Commons, in response to a brief debate on an amendment calling for the cancellation of loans for students entering useful professions, Robert Jackson, the Education Minister responsible, said: "We have an open mind... We shall monitor the position."

At the moment, there is no doubt that ministers would like to see the evolution of a rudimentary loan write-off scheme.

If local education authorities want to write off the loans of young teachers, ministers will politely applaud. And if hospitals want to find money to cancel the debts of young doctors, ministers will certainly not object.

There is no sign yet, however, that the Education Ministers have won the argument in favour of a major national write-off concession. If they did, the problems of recruiting graduate teachers, nurses and speech therapists would be significantly eased. The Government would also have dealt with the most damaging criticism of the present scheme, at no great cost to the taxpayer, before the end of the century.

This would be a cheap and sensible way for the Government to show that it understands the pressures faced by those who want to serve the community in jobs that require special skills, even if they are low-paid.

Perhaps the cross-bench peers in the House of Lords will persuade the Government to adopt a scheme which would be cheap, popular and worthwhile. Sir Philip Goodhart is Conservative MP for Beckenham.

## Help Moscow in its slow crawl forward

With the waning of Soviet power in central and Eastern Europe, and how to encourage the development of stability within the Soviet Union itself. In this sense, the key European problem of the 1990s is not the German but the Soviet question.

The collapse of Soviet influence has been sudden. Mr Gorbachev's repudiation of the Brezhnev doctrine proved unexpectedly decisive: without the support of Soviet troops, the puppet regimes of Eastern Europe were quickly swept aside. At home, Mr Gorbachev is fully engaged in grappling with mounting political and economic difficulties. In effect, the post-war division of Europe, based on overwhelming Soviet power in the East, has been consigned to the dustbin. Now a new European order has to be created.

Already the outlines of that order can be seen. Central and Eastern Europe are likely to be democratic; a united Germany is likely to be a member of Nato (although eastern Germany will remain outside Nato's sway); there will be agreement on short-range nuclear weapons and on greatly reduced conventional forces; Nato and the Warsaw Pact will remain in existence for the time being, but will be underwritten by a new pan-European security arrangement later this year.

But if a fresh European settlement has been made possible by the decline of Soviet power, it cannot be made effective without full Soviet participation. It is sometimes argued, mostly in the United States, that the disintegration of the Soviet Union — through either economic dislocation or civil war, or both — would be to the advantage of the West. I believe that is mistaken. Despite its interests in Asia, the Soviet Union is a European power, and whatever happens there affects the rest of us. A Soviet Union in chaos, particularly one armed with nuclear weapons, is a danger to the rest of Europe.

Moreover, without a Soviet counter-weight, Europe will be dominated by the new united Germany. The democratic federal Germany of the 1990s will be very different from the Germany of Hitler or of the Kaiser, and it will be integrated with the EC and will remain a member of Nato, guaranteed by the American deterrent. Nevertheless, a continent without a balance of power is less secure. So it is in our interests for a stable Soviet Union to be constructively involved in Europe.

Stability in the Soviet Union can be guaranteed only if the country is both democratic and prosperous. The development of successful post-war societies in West Germany and Japan is at least partly due to the potency of those ingredients, and it is in Western interests for the Soviet Union too to become a prosperous democracy.

The problem for Mr Gorbachev and the West is that far more progress has been made on



## Giles Radice believes generous Western aid in rebuilding the shattered Soviet economy would be in our own long-term interest

the political than on the economic front. The momentous end to the constitutional insistence on the leading role of the Communist Party is a recognition of the pluralism that is already established and which is likely to lead to full democracy.

The economy, however, has gone from bad to worse. There is less to buy in the shops than there was 10 years ago, money has lost its value, and the command economy is kept going only by a primitive system of barter. Even more depressingly, there is little evidence of any agreement on what should be done. The first faltering steps towards a market-orientated economy were delayed last December by Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister.

The new platform, which has been passed by the central committee and is being presented to the July party congress, is much more positive in its backing for the market economy. But support in principle now has to be translated into practice.

The combination of greater democracy and a weakened economy is potentially highly inflammable. The real danger to the Soviet Union is not the rise of nationalism on its periphery (Russia can survive without the Baltic states and Azerbaijan, even without Armenia and Georgia). The danger is rather that economic failure will lead to the breakdown of democracy and the rise of authoritarian

populism. What happened in central Europe between the wars is a warning that once such forces have been unleashed, they can quickly overwhelm not only democratic governments, but the most carefully devised international settlements.

I doubt it will be possible to bring about a transformation of the ailing Soviet economy without considerable Western assistance. The lack of relevant skills and technologies, and the scale of the task of changing a command economy mean that foreign help will be essential. For ideological and nationalist reasons, there is still strong resistance to the principle of such help, but as the situation deteriorates, the need for Western aid will become inescapable. It is very much in our long-term interest for the West to respond constructively.

There is of course no question of a blank cheque. Western assistance must be tied to a credible economic strategy. As leading Soviet economists already argue, this should include monetary reform, the introduction of market disciplines into the state sector, and the spread of private enterprise, particularly in land and distribution.

The immediate priority must be to restore the value of the rouble as a medium of exchange. Professor Shmelev of the USA/Canada Institute estimates that at least 200 billion roubles are now at large in the Soviet economy without any real use. What is urgently required is

currency reform to bring the rouble nearer to being convertible. In addition, measures must be taken to establish realistic pricing in the state sector. At the same time, the number of private markets must be greatly increased while the necessary legal steps are taken to permit private ownership of land.

Such an economic strategy would need Western support. International backing would be needed to underwrite the currency. Resources would be required to finance retraining and redeployment as market disciplines begin to bite in the public sector. Far greater technical and managerial skills would be needed. There would have to be investment through joint ventures and leasing. Free export of technology would be vital. In short, there would have to be major Western participation in the Soviet economy.

It can be argued that if the EC becomes heavily involved in Eastern Europe, there will not be sufficient resources to mount a similar effort in the Soviet Union. That is why the Western initiative must include Japan and the US as well as the EC. It must harness the resources of the entire developed world.

In the long term, the benefits of such an initiative would be considerable. Not only is the Soviet Union rich in resources, it is a potentially vast market. It could be the motor for continued world growth well into the next century. The costs of standing aside have also to be taken into account. The risks of watching the Soviet Union slide into chaos — with all that could mean for the new European settlement — are too great to be contemplated.

The author is Labour MP for Durham North.

Los Angeles

A group of frustrated Californians is poised to give the 1992 presidential election campaign a premature kick-start. George Bush may still be riding at record heights in the polls, and the Democrats may still have no clear challenger to him, but what appears to be a technical timetable change now before the state senate in Sacramento has done more to stir America's weary polity than the year's budget deficits, the defence cuts and speeches by the Rev Jesse Jackson put together.

The nation's biggest, richest and most rapidly expanding state is tired of having virtually no influence on the choice of contestants for the White House. Its primary election — traditionally held in June — has usually been too late in the season to have significant influence.

In June 1988, neither Jackson nor Michael Dukakis bothered to bring his primary bandwagon to California. Dukakis appeared at a few airports and Jackson posed with black ghetto gang leaders, but it was a desultory summer for the Democrats. By that time, Bush already had the Republican nomination in his pocket.

Last week, a National Democratic Party panel accepted a request from California's Democrats that the California primary be brought forward to the first Tuesday in March. If, as seems likely, the state legislature and governor approve, aspirant presidents of the future will have to go directly from the ten-men-and-a-dog Iowa caucuses and the wastes of New Hampshire to the teeming suburbs of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The impact could be enormous. Democrat bosses, for example, hope that it will mean a much earlier choice of final candidate. Most recent rule changes in the party have been aimed at giving more influence to activists and more time for them to tear each other and their party into small, unelectable pieces. If a candidate could quickly take a major slice of the biggest pile of convention votes, it would secure his position sooner.

The established Democrat runners will also take heart from the move. Campaigning in California costs serious money. To campaign there only two weeks before taking on the combined Southern states on "Super Tuesday" would be doubly demanding of funds.

The money might be fairly easily raised by Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, who distinguished himself in the débâcle of 1988, or Mario Cuomo of New York, or Bill Bradley of New Jersey, but middle-income aspirants should start fund-raising now — a year before they might otherwise bring out their begging bowls. Poorer players may find the game is over before they start.

California politicians are, not surprisingly, bushy about the proposal, hoping that their problems and values will play a larger part in the national electoral consciousness. Their state is not only the largest, but one of the most representative in the union. Electioneering here will

give high priority to urban issues, immigration, drugs and violent crime.

North-eastern liberalism — particularly when applied to the judicial system — has not served the Democrats well. In Sacramento they say that if Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis had been forced to harden their positions in Ronald Reagan's country, they might have been less massively defeated everywhere else.

The creeping forward of the primary polls is part of an established trend. In 1976 and 1980, the Democrats reached the halfway point in delegate selection at the end of April. In 1984, they were halfway there weeks earlier, and in 1988 this was pushed back by a further four weeks to "Super Tuesday", March 8.

This so-called "frontloading" has not, however, gone far enough to counter other more fissiparous trends within the party. For example, unlike the Republicans, who had a winner-takes-all rule for their 175 delegates, the 336 Californian delegates sent to the Democratic national convention in 1988 were divided in proportion to the votes cast for each contender. This system is not under challenge, but unless it is changed, the delegates to the 1992 national convention may have barely more influence over the choice of a presidential candidate than they have had in the past.

The law of unintended consequences is rarely more active than when applied to changes in electoral rules. "Super Tuesday" was designed as a ploy to concentrate the influence of the conservative Democratic South by holding a number of primaries simultaneously. The result in so vast a poll was merely a test of machinery and resources. The Southern flag-bearer, Al Gore of Tennessee, could not beat the superior Dukakis organization. The real beneficiary was George Bush, whose nomination worried everyone on that day.

As Democrat mandarins in Washington discuss and digest the effects of the Californian move, their greatest worry is a mirror-image of their greatest hope. They fear that if an unsuitable unknown were to win New Hampshire, he might too easily appeal to Californian faddishness. With the help of free publicity rather than paid advertising, such a candidate could become the party's clear front-runner before he had been sufficiently tried and tested.

New York knocked down Gary Hart in 1984. The question is, would Los Angeles have been so wise? The move has also raised more traditional Eastern fears of California's suppressed power and influence.

It has long been lightly said in Washington that the centre of gravity in the US is moving west. With the ties to the old battlefields of Europe rapidly being loosened and the bonds to the new economic master in Japan becoming stronger, the cliché may soon become persuasive reality — with consequences for the fight to occupy the White House and far beyond.

## That's life on the ocean wave



GRIFF  
RHYS JONES

that. Tempting fate. For when we popped ashore for a moment (I was unwise to do that too), somebody came running down the 18th-century dock with a 20th-century telex in his hands. "Savoy burned down," it read. "Run in jeopardy. Telephone."

"It's a lovely theatre," I wrote of the Savoy, to which *Thark*, in which I was appearing, was due to transfer from the Lyric Hammer-smith, "and a lucky one too." On reflection, I was unwise to write

their money back. Alas, he has already spent most of it, so, as we say in the business, the show must go on. André is therefore looking around every reasonably large room with seats and a raised end in central London. "Can we phone you back?" Peter asked. "I'm on a cruise to nowhere." "Well phone us when you get there." So on Wednesday I stand again in the queue to use Antigua's telephone. I speak to Loretta. "They'll know tomorrow," she says with cheery predictability. The next day I speak to Lorraine, who speaks to Anna, who finds Loretta. "You sound

like Mickey Mouse," she tells me. I do my Scrooge McDuck voice and she puts me on to Peter. "It's off. That's it. Nixed. It all seems unbelievable to me, but at these telephone rates, who's arguing? Suddenly I have more than six free days. Suddenly I have 15 free weeks. This is appalling! Marooned in Antigua! Calamity!! (This is for André's benefit.) Of course, every silver lining has its cloud. I couldn't get a mooring to enable me to go ashore and cable this piece. However, if I reach across with my handy boathook, I can just tap on the wall of an outside tub. I'm sure the zillionaire will let me use his outside billiard ball. And if he won't, well, to be frank, I don't greatly care. I'm off into that wild blue yonder before the Savoy miraculously rebuilds itself, or Prince Edward intervenes, or *The Mousetrap* folds.

152 من الأصل





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## THE DUTY OF AN MP

There is nothing new about the risk of conflict between the public responsibilities of a member of Parliament and his private interests. The MP's presence in the Palace of Westminster, his access to public figures and his ability to put pressure on ministers all act as a magnet to clients anxious to hire him. The temptations to which this exposes members are only too obvious.

These dangers have been recognized for centuries. In 1372, for example, an ordinance disqualified lawyers altogether from membership of the Commons on the grounds that they exploited their position in the interests of their clients to the public disadvantage. Today, with insistent demands for MPs to act as "consultants", they must register their remunerated interests and disclose them specifically when taking part in Commons' business.

There is nothing wrong with outside interests; indeed, the House benefits from the breadth of knowledge they bring. But they must be in the open. The rules are clear and comprehensive. An MP must disclose "any relevant pecuniary interest or benefit of whatever nature, whether direct or indirect, that he may have had, may have, or may be expecting to have." It is this rule that Mr John Browne, the Conservative MP for Winchester, has breached according to the Commons' Select Committee on Members' Interests.

It is no mere technical offence. The select committee has recommended that "in the light of the serious nature" of its findings, early action should be taken by the whole House, and the report must now be debated. No precise sanctions, however, are laid down for breaches of the rules. When the rules were established it was said simply any breach might be considered as a contempt and that "the sanction of possible penal jurisdiction by the House should be sufficient." That raises the possibility of Mr Browne's censure or suspension.

The public side of Mr Browne's private life has been eventful. After an acrimonious

divorce from his first wife, she was ordered to pay him £270,000 (including costs) as settlement. The proceedings he then took against her to obtain the money (she has since been declared bankrupt) led to his position as MP being challenged in his constituency party.

Subsequently, Mr Browne sponsored a private member's Bill in an attempt to safeguard individual privacy against journalistic probing. It was a measure that would have prevented the renewed probing in newspapers and on television that has led to these new revelations.

Most seriously, he is found not to have disclosed a number of foreign payments, notably a substantial payment from the Saudi Arabian Government for advising them in a study on asset freezing, at which time a number of his parliamentary interventions were on related matters. He also failed to register a client relationship with Lebanese businessmen, even though he was lobbying ministers.

None of this is law-breaking. But it is a serious breach of parliamentary rules — not mere conventions — made in the public interest. For the Commons, there are the questions whether the rules should be tightened (only their looseness enabled Mr Browne to escape some of the complaints), whether there should be more explicit sanctions and what is to be done about Mr Browne so long as he is an MP.

For Mr Browne's constituents, there is the question of his future candidature if he does not resign. In the interests of his party and of Parliament, there seems to be little doubt that resignation of his seat now would be the honourable course, inconvenient though a by-election would be for his party just now.

If Mr Browne chooses not to resign, his constituency party would be wise to make it clear that it will choose another candidate at the next general election. This would be re-election of a proper sort. An MP must account for his conduct and live up to the job. If he does not, he should go.

## ILL-JUDGED IN HANOI

It now seems unlikely that Vietnam will accept the deal offered in Hanoi yesterday by the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Francis Maude. This will impose a further delay in the forcible repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong. It should be used by the British Government to reconsider a policy which reflects no honour on this country or on Hong Kong.

The essence of the British offer was that, if Vietnam honoured its "international obligations" by accepting these deportees, Britain would help in the construction of reception facilities for those returning, voluntarily or involuntarily. If the traffic became well established, Britain also held out the prospect of modest quantities of development aid at an unspecified future date, breaking with a Western aid embargo in existence since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978.

Mr Maude hoped to leave Hanoi with a firm, and imminent, date for resuming forced repatriation. The British and Hong Kong governments have been pressing for this on the ground that continued forced repatriation is the only effective deterrent against a further influx of boat people next month, when the monsoon changes. Vietnam has declined to set a date unless and until the policy has international endorsement.

The Vietnamese Government claims to have been shocked by the manner in which 51 tearful boat people, mainly women and children, were deported by night from Hong Kong last December, and there is little doubt that it was taken back by the international outcry which ensued. At last month's meeting in Geneva of the 29-nation UN steering committee on Indo-Chinese refugees, Hanoi made its doubts evident.

The majority agreed on a six-month delay to give voluntary measures time to work. When the US insisted on a year's grace, Hanoi

proposed a compromise, a gap of nine months. Since then it has made it clear that it will not move without Washington's assent. That insistence is, however, probably based less on moral repugnance than on solid considerations of its national interest. For Vietnam to have agreed to Britain's proposal would have been to trade the promise of small sums of British aid for the certainty that Washington would persist in blocking far larger sums.

Viewed from Hanoi, it could even be said that the plight of the boat people, and the sympathy they arouse, serve to focus attention on the needs of a devastated country which has embarked on economic reforms and is desperate for accompanying foreign investment. The Foreign Office's aid-for-deportation bargain looks, in that context, somewhat naive.

It is also dishonourable. Without the conditions attached, the relaxation of Britain's aid embargo would have been a recognition of the need to tackle the problem of the boat people by improving their prospects at home. The offer should now be freed of any conditions, other than that of strict monitoring of the uses to which funds are put.

Meantime Britain and Hong Kong should make an effort at making voluntary repatriation work, beginning with the 1,600 boat people in Hong Kong waiting to go home of their own volition — who should surely take precedence over those who resist.

Ideally all will eventually return in the conditions of "safety and dignity" Britain has promised them. In a report published today, Amnesty International records that despite legal reforms, all boat people are still legally liable to imprisonment, for terms of up to 12 years, or "re-education" on their return. Torture in prison remains widespread. While these violations of human rights persist, to send people back against their will is not the hallmark of a civilized country.

## HUMBUG IN DUBLIN

The Government has taken the right decision in dropping, unilaterally, its ban on new investment in South Africa. But its failure in Dublin yesterday to persuade other European Community countries to do the same is disappointing, however predictable. The decision to dispatch an EC delegation to Pretoria must be welcomed. So too must the fact that Britain, for once, did not stand alone — but had its oldest ally Portugal on its side. Even so the EC has once more muffed its chances.

Earlier this month the same foreign ministers acclaimed the reforms announced by President de Klerk and said that if these were followed by further measures, they would indeed consider lifting sanctions. Since then the release of Mr Nelson Mandela has already prompted some black African heads of state to invite Mr de Klerk to a summit of symbolic importance next weekend. Despite the demands that all sanctions should continue (as expressed by, among others, President Bush) there is a growing perception among governments that Pretoria will soon need a few carrots, not more sticks. Do those more strident critics seriously believe that no encouraging hand should be extended until after majority rule has been imposed and Mr de Klerk replaced by a black president?

Such ends can only properly be achieved by dialogue and negotiation. But this in turn requires mutual confidence, economic stability and political calm. The recent manifestations of far-right anger in South Africa indicate the threat to President de Klerk if he fails to carry his white electorate with him. He has invested heavily in policies of reform. He now needs to show some rapid return on his capital.

That his Government still has a long way to go before apartheid has been finally dismantled is not disputed. But as he moves in that direction, so the West should proceed, step-by-step, alongside. This is the policy long

advocated by this country. Two weeks ago it put it into practice by dropping its restrictions on cultural, scientific and academic links. After the release of Mr Mandela it went slightly further by offering a positive strengthening of such contacts. Now the lifting of its ban on new investment is the natural — and more significant — next step.

In the first place, though adopted by the Community four years ago, its implementation was left to individual governments. Secondly, it has been imperfectly applied. The long-held suspicion that some of our more competitive partners have been less than vigilant in policing their own patch was confirmed by Mrs Thatcher's reference in the Commons yesterday to a five-year £125 million investment programme by BMW. The value of South Africa's exports to the Community has more than doubled in the last two years. International Monetary Fund statistics show that South Africa's biggest trading partner is now West Germany, followed by Japan, Britain, the United States, Italy and France.

The Community law banning the import of South African gold coins, iron and steel will remain in place for the foreseeable future. But the existing British curbs on the promotion of tourism (a Commonwealth rather than European Community measure), on Government loans to South African agencies and official funding of trade missions to the Cape, are among the concessions that could be made in future.

It has long been perceived that apartheid bore the seeds of its own destruction. The South African economy and large industries have been handicapped by its constraints upon the workforce. If the country's black majority are to come into their inheritance one day they will require it to be prosperous and strong. It is in their interests as much as every one else's that measures of this kind are taken now.

## '999' dispute and the mentally ill

From Dr Tom Carnwath and Mrs Margaret Lewis

Sir, There is an unfortunate consequence of the current ambulance dispute which is not widely known. It concerns patients who are mentally ill and need to be admitted to hospital against their will under the provisions of the Mental Health Act.

Normally, these patients are brought into hospital by ambulance. Ambulance drivers in many areas have declared that Mental Health Act admissions are not emergencies and so are not willing to transport such patients to psychiatric hospitals. This means that it is usually police now who come and collect patients from their homes, and take them to hospital in police vans.

While we are very grateful to the police for their help, it must be pointed out how distressing this procedure is for patients and their families. Neighbours get the impression that somebody in the family has been arrested. Patients who may already be deluded become more suspicious and are more likely to react aggressively. Ambulance personnel have special skills in dealing with disturbed people.

It is important, wherever possible, for mentally ill people to be transported to hospital in a non-threatening and dignified manner. This is hardly possible to achieve in the rear of a police van.

Yours sincerely,  
TOM CARNWATH,  
MARGARET LEWIS,  
Trafford Health Authority,  
Bridgewater Hospital,  
Green Lane,  
Parricross, Eccles,  
Manchester M30,  
February 16.

## Childcare tax help

From Ms Delyth Morgan

Sir, Your report (February 9) speculation about the Government's plans to abolish the tax on workplace nurseries. We welcome any Government plans to end this tax but take issue with the Government's approach.

With the UK currently at the bottom of the European childcare league, and less than 2 per cent of pre-school children in nurseries, it is unrealistic to expect tinkering with the tax system alone to substantially increase the level of childcare services for working parents.

As your report suggests, changes in the tax system will encourage employers to issue childcare vouchers; but we have considerable evidence to suggest that the market is not likely to provide anywhere for parents to spend their vouchers.

If the Government has money to spend on childcare, we would call on them, as a matter of urgency, to implement a coherent national childcare strategy — one which abolishes the tax but also offers cash help to employers and local authorities struggling to create the new nursery places we need so desperately.

Yours,  
DELYTH MORGAN (Director),  
Working for Childcare,  
77 Holloway Road, N7,  
February 9.

## Recalling Lord Peter

From Dean Gilbert Thurlow  
Sir, Lord Peter Winsey's centenary has already been recalled (Mrs van Hooven's letter, February 14), and in a sphere dear to his heart.

Dorothy L. Sayers's *The Nine Tailors* revolves round the ancient English art and science of change ringing a peal of 15,000 changes is rung, during which the "murder" takes place.

Peals of such length are rare today, and the Dorothy L. Sayers Society arranged for a peal to be rung in the method in which Lord Peter rang, but of a more normal length. An adapted version of Dorothy's peal, 5,376 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, was rung on January 13 at Tarrington St Clement Church, near King's Lynn in Norfolk — as likely as any to be Dorothy's Fenchurch St Paul — by eight members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. The peal lasted about three hours.

Each of the ringers assumed one of Dorothy's names — Glenn J. Poyntz, representing Lord Peter, rang the second. Details are in the February issue of *Ringing World*. Yours faithfully,  
GILBERT THURLOW,  
2 East Pallant,  
Chichester,  
West Sussex,  
February 14.

## Parole system

From his Honour Judge Finney

Sir, As one who has protested in your columns against the chaotic and unjust effects of the present remission and parole system, I welcome the proposals now made in *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public* (report, February 7) to rectify the situation: based on the Carlisle committee's recommendations, they are practical, sensible, and will be effective.

However, there are other aspects of the White Paper which will need careful thought. In particular, the whole new emphasis on "punishment in the community" will simply not work unless probation officers are prepared to accept that they are officers of the court concerned in the process of sentence and punishment, as well as rehabilitation, and not "social workers" dealing with "clients".

## Political balance and the BBC

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, In the late sixties I was a regular unwelcome visitor to the splendid office of Mr Oliver Whitley, the BBC's then trouble-shooter, or to the broom cupboard occupied by Lord Hill, the then chairman, to make identical complaints about the bias being shown against the Labour Party to those now being made by Lord Wyatt (article, February 13) on behalf of his new, down-market friends in the Conservative Party.

In particular, I used to complain about the way the BBC would pick disaffected members of the Parliamentary Labour Party to appear on its programmes rather than those who loyally supported their own Government.

Lord Wyatt should recall that when he and his then comrade-in-arms, Desmond Donnelly, were in dispute with their own party over steel nationalisation they received an amount of broadcasting time which they no doubt felt was commensurate with their own importance. Alas, what was said for the gander then in No. 10 would not appear to be sauce for the goose now there.

So I look forward soon to hearing my old chum, Woodrow, on the wireless and to shaking my head in indignation at his latest tergiversation. Good Lord, Woodrow, come off it!  
I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ROY ROEBUCK,  
12 Brookside Street, W1.

## Late-night TV

From Dr Alan Bullock

Sir, How appropriate that Bernard Levin's most recent article on the single issue fanatic in today's *Times* (February 15) should appear on the same page as Ronald Butt's appeal for greater censorship of late-night television programmes.

Clearly those who share the views of Mr Butt and Mrs Whitehouse are incapable of understanding that television is not intended simply and solely for family consumption and thus restricted to programmes suitable for children.

Adult viewers are immensely grateful that BBC2 and Channel 4 are able to show films about areas of human experience which transcend those familiar to an 11-year-old. A film such as *Rome Open*

## Reporting of deaths

From Dr John Howard

Sir, It is unfortunate that ministers continue to claim that there is an enforceable duty on citizens at common law to report deaths to the coroner. The words used by the minister in the parliamentary reply quoted by Mr Howell (February 8) are taken from the Coroners Act of 1887 and neither that Act, nor any subsequent legislation, has imposed such a duty, although a number of Bills have attempted to do so without success.

As for the alleged duty at common law, the only authority which can be found for it is a medieval law report. It is significant that on a previous occasion, when Lord Chancellor Kilmer made a claim similar to that made by the minister, he had to rely upon Bacon's *Abridgement*

## Car hire regulation

From Colonel E. J. Lummis

Sir, As reported in *The Times* today (February 14), a Bill which, *inter alia*, will grant London boroughs the same powers as district councils outside London have had since 1976 to license private car hire companies was given an unopposed third reading in the House of Lords.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 has led to a great deal of litigation because of the way in which individual councils have attempted to implement it. Most responsible private car hire companies in London (some of whom are members of the Despatch Association) are fully in support of the need to regulate the industry. Indeed some years ago a determined attempt was made to this end but the Government refused to act.

What is now wanted are measures which will ensure that there is a properly regulated scheme to control the private hire car industry in London which will repeat the mistakes made in the 1976 Act. Yours sincerely,  
E. J. LUMMIS (Chairman),  
The Despatch Association,  
55 Blockley Road,  
North Wembley, Middlesex.

## Language at large

From Mr Bernard Denvir

Sir, Those of your correspondents (January 23; February 5, 8, 12) who have been complaining about the degree of obsequiousness demanded in legal documents are tending to confuse the form with the content. In almost every walk of life language is used as much as a form of magic as a way of conveying meaning. The parlance of police officers, the phraseology of bureaucrats, the evocatively archaic cadences of the liturgy are all intended to endow syntax with arcane significance, nouns, verbs and adjectives with the binding power of a spell.

In various professions and many branches of commerce, phrases such as "with reference to yours of the 7th ult." and a host of others are employed to add weight to the prosaic and gravity to the trivial. Most people terminate their letters with adverbs which have little or no relation to those virtues of truthfulness and sincerity which they claim to possess, and the use of language in a basically irrational way to create feelings of awe and respect is as justifiable as the wig of a judge or the mitre of a bishop. Yours etc.,  
BERNARD DENVIR,  
85 Knatchbull Road, SE5.

## Aid priorities for Poland

From the Reverend Leo Chamberlain, OSB

Sir, Anyone who has visited Krakow recently will realise, as Mr John (February 16) has done, the urgent need for action, not just to save the buildings, beautiful as some of them are, but to save the health of the people. But to bring pressure to bear upon the Polish Government to realise that we care? This is to speak with some insensitivity.

The fact is that ministers decide what information should or should not be disclosed, when it should be disclosed, and how it should be disclosed. Rather than being unfairly dealt with by broadcasters, they are far too often allowed to dictate their own terms.

They usually refuse to debate with anyone who is authoritative on their subject, preferring to be confronted by interviewers who are expected to deal with scores of subjects every week and with the best will in the world can rarely penetrate a minister's defences. On the rare occasions they do permit a discussion, they nearly always insist on the last word, usually leaving frustrated critics furious at the way they abuse that opportunity.

It is my experience that in what is admittedly a crowded and noisy arena it is ministers who usually hold the microphone firmly in their hands. Today is one of the few programmes that ensures others occasionally get the chance. Woodrow Wyatt should leave it alone. Yours sincerely,  
DES WILSON,  
Chairman,  
Citizen Action,  
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1,  
February 20.

## Docklands museum

From the Chief Executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation

Sir, We take a different view of the history of the London Docklands Museum project from that of your correspondent from the Docklands History Group, Mr A. C. S. Payton (February 10).

We are disappointed that our substantial support for this project over the past eight years, which includes more than £1 million and free storage facilities, has not yet led to a decision by the Museum of London to go ahead with an achievable scheme. The main difficulty has been that the promoters want a very large museum — an understandable ambition, but a very costly one. They have no other source of guaranteed funding and currently look to the London Docklands Development Corporation for the entire capital and start-up costs.

We believe that a smaller-scale museum is a positive solution and would be a great success if imaginatively designed. The LDDC is determined that the history of London's docklands will be told in Docklands, and we are ourselves commissioning design and feasibility work to help realise that ambition. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HONEY,  
Chief Executive,  
London Docklands Development Corporation,  
3 Limeharbour, E1,  
February 13.

## Candid candies

From Mr Maurice Hanssen

Sir, Mr Fagan who wrote (February 7) listing the spectacular number of ingredients appearing on a box of US chocolates can count himself lucky to have this information. British law does not require chocolate producers to declare their ingredients (although some do so voluntarily). This means that if, for example, the buyer is sensitive to the colour FD&C Yellow No 5, which we would call E102 or tartrazine, the box could be rejected in favour of another make.

Apart from chocolates, there are at least four other areas where we should know what unexpected ingredients are being put into products. These include restaurant and take-away meals (think of the vivid red of most tandoori chicken and the yellow of fish batter), bakery and delicatessen products sold loose, alcoholic drinks and medicines.

Let us hope that the basically excellent Food Safety Bill soon to go through the House can incorporate provisions to provide such information. Responsible manufacturers surely can have nothing to hide. Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE HANSEN,  
63 Hampton Court Way,  
Thames Ditton,  
Surrey.

## A golden age

From Mr Richard Wadsworth

Sir, The eighties were the days. You could go up West, buy a copy of *The Times* and three ceteras, and still have change from half a sovereign. Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WADSWORTH,  
4 Foulisye Cottages,  
Scalby,  
Scarborough,  
North Yorkshire,  
February 19.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.











SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

## THE ARTS

## Chilling reality

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

About 20 years ago, while looking for something new to do on *Late Night Line Up*, the director, Mike Fentiman, took Tony Blair and a camera to meet a group of Ford workers in the Dagenham car factory. They proved to be some of the most articulate television critics in the business.

From that one-off beginning, Fentiman created a whole BBC access unit which over the past two decades has managed to open up television to non-professionals more effectively than any other.

Its latest manifestation is a new BBC2 series, *Open Space*, which started last night with a terrifying film, edited by one of Fentiman's old group, Tony Laryea, and made at the Tooting Bec psychiatric hospital by its own patients. What separates this series from any other is that editorial control remains with the public rather than the BBC. In this case, it remained in the hands of Albert Sattom, a patient in the hospital, who talked in *Breaking the Wall* to many of the others about their views on shifting government policy towards the mentally ill.

Inevitably, a report which comes from the inside has the qualities of a house magazine rather than an independent newspaper, but the chilling reality of community care, which effectively means releasing the mentally ill into a non-expert world, has seldom been brought so vividly to the camera.

On ITV, the Kevin Brownlow and David Gill documentary on Harold Lloyd went into the long anti-climax that was a perfect reflection of the silent comedian's later career. Unlike Chaplin and Keaton, the other two great silent giants evoked by Brownlow's title *The Third Genius*, Lloyd managed both his private and his professional life immaculately. No under-age sex scandals, no bankruptcies but instead a long, slow decline brought about by something much less readily understandable than the coming of sound.

When Lloyd made his last silent bit in 1929 he was just 35. He took happily to the microphone, but his public suddenly refused to go near him. According to Brownlow and Gill, this was because the victim of the Depression reacted against his cheery brand of college-boy-made-good optimism.

The next 40 years of Lloyd's life were spent in fabulously wealthy retirement in a full-scale replica of the Villa d'Este, looking not unlike Xanadu in *Citizen Kane*, and lecturing on his early movies at the University of Southern California. It could have been much worse.

## To friendship and freedom

David Robinson reveals the winners at an historic Berlin Film Festival and reviews the films that came in from the Cold War



No tears: Jiri Menzel's *Larks On A String*, a once suppressed Czechoslovakian film, won the main prize

It has taken the Berlin Film Festival precisely 40 years to arrive at a complete reversal of its original intentions: a Cold War provocation. It was established in 1951, in a city still sad and shabby from the aftermath of war, as a glamorous, international cultural event in the Western sector, from which the communist world was banned. Not until the late 1970s was the first Soviet film admitted.

This year though, the festival has been dedicated to reconciliation. For the first time, shows were given in both east and west. Festival guests were allowed to cross the border without visas or passports. East Berliners still cannot quite believe that big cultural events like this can be for everyone and not just the political elite.

An exceptional feature of the festival was the first appearance of many films that had been banned in the east. The main prize, The Golden Bear, was awarded to a legendary suppressed film from Czechoslovakia, Jiri Menzel's *Larks On A String*. It has lost little of its force since its 1968 banning. Starting as comedy and imperceptibly moving to Kafka horror, it tells of the Stalinist "re-education of bourgeois elements" such as philosophers and musicians.

The prize was shared with Costa-Gavras's American-made political drama *The Music Box*, a gripping story about a Hungarian-born American citizen charged with anti-Semitic atrocities committed half a century ago.

East Germany also entered a

film dating from 1966, *Traces of the Stones*, which explores with wit and irony the hypocrisies of the system, by which a gifted engineer can be humiliated and demoted, merely on account of a clandestine love affair. At the time, it was politically dangerous enough for its director, Frank Beyer, to be banned from directing for 10 years.

The Berlin competition was dominated by scenes of European history and politics. A new Polish

film, Maciej Dejczer's *300 Miles to Heaven*, offers a forceful portrayal of the hopelessness of the old socialist regime, in the story of two young boys who seek political asylum in Denmark. A new film from the USSR, Alexander Rogoshin's *The Guard*, is also a forceful metaphor of the brutal and twisted human relations produced by corrupt regimes. The film was awarded a special prize for its contribution to cinema art.

From West Germany, *The*

*Frightful Girl*, which won for Michael Verhoeven the Best Director prize, is based on the true experiences of a young woman whose efforts to write the history of her local town during the Third Reich brought her into bitter conflicts with fellow citizens.

Even Hollywood seemed caught up by the revolutionary spirit and heightened political consciousness of the era. Apart from *The Music Box*, Oliver Stone's *Born on the 4th of July* dramatized the real life

political awakening of Ron Kovic, a young soldier crippled in Vietnam, who passed from gang-bro faith in the Stars and Stripes to dissident political activism.

More private aspects of life were not neglected however. *Coming Out* is, even in today's circumstances, a surprising film to come from puritanical East Germany, depicting sympathetically, if sometimes luridly, a homosexual love affair. The film received a special award for its contribution to tolerance for minorities.

America, as well as the charming *Driving Miss Daisy* (which won a special joint acting award for its mature principals, Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman) offered Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors*: a triumphant return to form.

With British film-making at a low ebb, the only home-grown entry was David Hayman's *The Silent Screem*, produced by Channel Four and the British Film Institute. Self-consciously over-elaborated, it sets out to tell the story of Larry Winters, the Scottish murderer who turned poet in his prison cell. Iain Glen emerges as an unusually virile and charismatic new British star, and deservedly won the Silver Bear for best individual performance.

The other main awards went to the Russian Kara Muratova's *The Asthenic Syndrome* and to an unexpectedly dark study of a social outcast in present-day Red China, Xie Fei's *Black Snow*.

## Magical mixture

CONCERT  
Paul Griffiths

Shiva Nova  
Purcell Room

People have been trying for a century to find ways of integrating European music with Indian, and still the most successful instances have come from Messiaen, whose concern is limited to rudiments dug up from a medieval Indian treatise and probably mistranscribed. So one should not expect too much too soon from Shiva Nova, an amplified ensemble balancing flute and cello against sitar and tabla, with a synthesizer.

Of the three works for the group included in this programme, Simon Emmerson's *Pathways* was honest in admitting to some doubt. For much of the time the music seemed to be searching its way forward, and the piece only took off when the Indian musicians, Dharambir Singh and Ghulam Sarwar Sabri, were left to do their own thing while the others smilingly, noddingly looked on.

Priti Paintal's *Euroasian Quintet* was a much more boisterous affair, belying her dull title. With its racing pulse, its drones and its hectic rhythmic figures bounced from instrument to instrument, it was reminiscent of Perotinus as much as of Indo-rock. And perhaps this was a kind of realism too: an acknowledgement that western music can only meet Indian if the former is taken back to its 12th-century starting point.

I wonder, however, if the synthesizer has to sound quite so metallized. Daryl Runswick managed to make an advantage of its needing voice in his *Dialectic I*, which started out with the whole ensemble geared to a fast rock beat with Indian slippages, and then moved from optimism to puzzlement as the instruments pulled away into largely improvised solos. The synthesizer was still stuck in the groove of jangling up-tempo repetition, but the cello explored a high reflectiveness.

Sabri showed a virtuosity we were to hear again when he gave a solo improvisation, his right hand flickering on the drum like a bird's wing in panic, and Singh ended with a contemplative coda before the piece lapsed into distant electronic swoops.

Two other moments, both nominally outside the music, showed the distance that has yet to be travelled: after the Emmerson, and again after Sabri's solo, players tuned up to a major chord from the piano that sounded as irredeemably strange as a computer in a Mogul miniature.

## Last laugh from a suicidal comic

THEATRE  
Harry Eyres

A Confederacy of  
Dunces  
The Gate

Around John Kennedy Toole's comic novel runs a black border: the 32-year-old author committed suicide in 1969, having had it. Eleven years later, his mother succeeded where he had failed, and the next year, the book won a Pulitzer prize.

Kerry Shale's one-man adaptation, directed by John Abbott, re-enacts the tragic frame, while keeping it sensibly narrow. We come upon the author in his Bohemian study finding the returned manuscript in his letterbox, and inspiring another rejection slip on his spike to the ominous strains of Carmina Burana. Before succumbing to sleeping tablets, he picks the book up and cries defiantly: "But it's funny!"

It certainly is. The setting is New Orleans, 1962, and Toole's central character is an elephantine layabout, or eccentric genius, named Ignatius Reilly, who lives at home with mother, penning an

indictment of 20th-century tastelessness, or simply watching television.

The genre is urban picaresque; rather in the manner of Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*, Reilly and mother get involved in a series of free-wheeling adventures with a variety of low-life types.

Shale, with a virtuoso technique honed by radio reading with its lightning character changes, brings them all to life with astonishing verve. The mother is an ironic antithesis of Scarlett O'Hara, who speaks like a cracked crow. There is Patrolman Mancuso, donning ever more unlikely disguises and

frequenting bus station washrooms in search of what he calls "preverts".

At the House of Joy bar, the proprietress, Lana Lee, has a voice like a hacksaw and the instincts of a storm-trooper. One of the show's funniest moments is the account of a striptease involving the barmaid, Darlene, and her brass-ringing-pulling cocktail.

At the centre is Reilly, undoubtedly the author's most remarkable creation, with his protruding lower lip, his wallowing gait, his husky speech ("Move along, you flamboyant offal") and his uncontrollable eruptions. He certainly draws a magnificent impersonation from Shale.

At the same time, we are made to feel that Reilly is what links the black border to the apparently light-hearted comic fiction: the Oblomovian sloth hiding intellectual ambition and the dependence on the mother are the stuff of a different kind of book, which Toole was never able to write.



Kerry Shale: his magnificent impersonations bring characters to life

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## Delicate game of call-and-response

JAZZ  
Clive Davis

Van Morrison/Danish Radio Big Band  
Barbican

The subsequent studio recording was finally released by CBS late last year.

There was little trace of the suite's rock ambience in the opening numbers at the Barbican. Jones's arrangement of "Basically Yours" set the evening underway with a display of controlled power, the slow, heavy brass chords playing a delicate game of call-and-response with the Basie-style piano.

Another standard from the Jones book, the aptly-titled "Tip-

toe", demanded bright and agile ensemble playing at a faster tempo.

Rumour has it that Morrison may show up at some of the later tour dates. His relationship with the DRBB goes back five years, to a tour on the band's home territory. They were reunited last year for a successful series of concerts in the United States.

Seemingly determined not to upstage the players, the singer made a businesslike entrance, launching into his songs as if he were just another hired vocalist. But for the next 45 minutes - filmed for a forthcoming Arena documentary - the balance between singer and ensemble sounded way out of proportion.

Whether the fault lay with the sound engineers or Morrison's voice was not clear. The young

audience did not seem to mind as long as he served up the old favourites.

His saxophone made a quick appearance before George Fame arrived on stage for the finale.

After a brief encore, the band was left with the unenviable task of continuing on its own, faced by a crowd that was still screaming for the star of the show.

Wisely, the musicians kept things short, signing off with a glowing version of another Jones arrangement, "To You". The audience, to its credit, gave a generous response.

• The Danish Radio Big Band appears at the Stranmillis College Theatre, Belfast, tonight; the Orchard Leisure Centre, Armagh, Friday; the Derry Rialto, Londonderry, Saturday; and the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, Sunday.



Van Morrison: star of the show

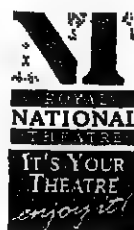
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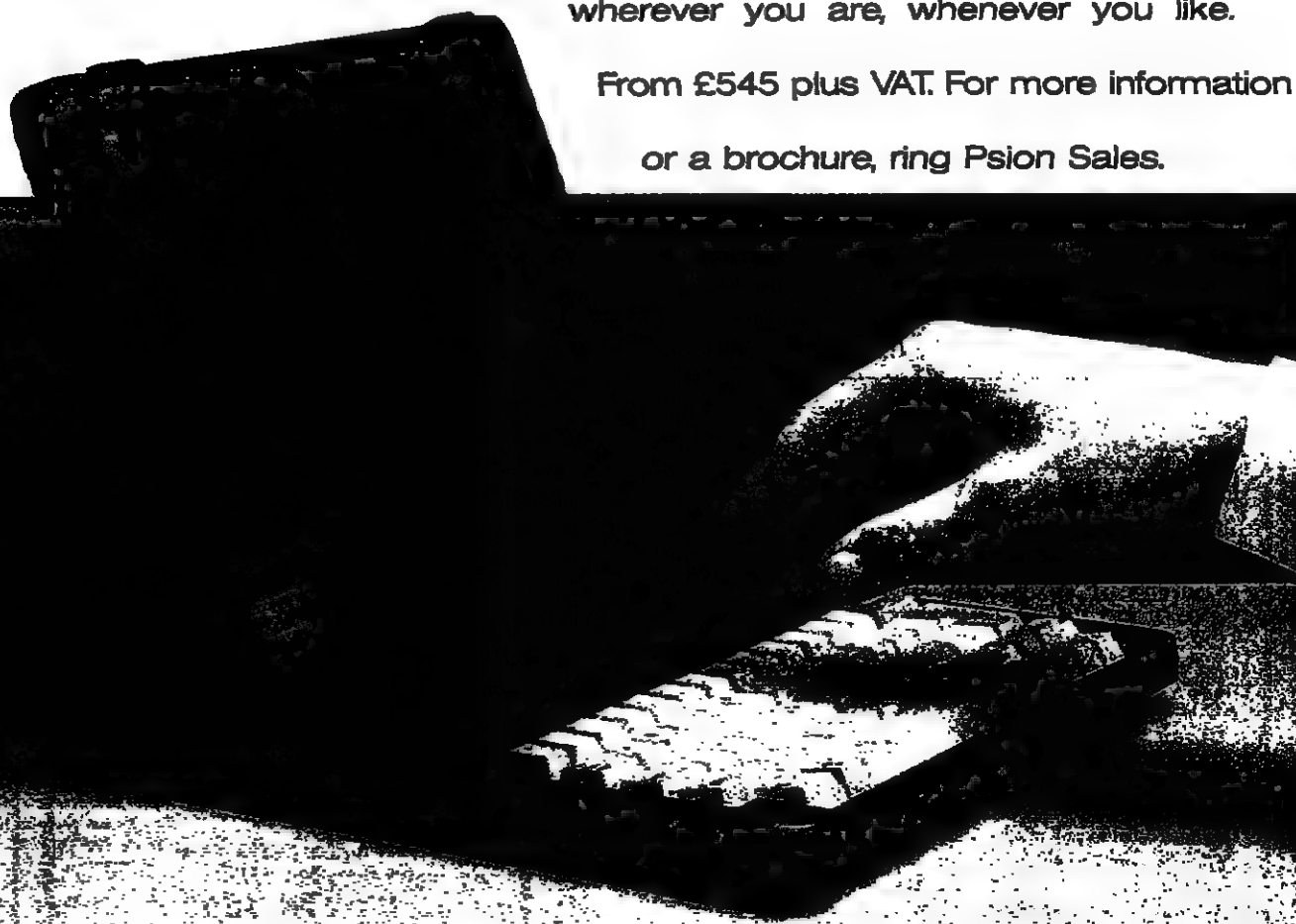
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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## Fighting for air and all that jazz

The next few days will see a pepping-up of commercial radio competition, as Jazz FM the first all-London incremental, or extra, station, takes to the air. The official opening day is March 4, but any Londoner in search of a preview can find sampler test transmissions now, on the allocated frequency, 102.2. The transmitter spread comfortably overlaps the M25, which means a potential of eight million adults, far more than in other local radio areas.

Jazz FM has but a few months start on two other "incrementals", Kiss FM, a heavier metal venture, and Lord Hanson's Melody Radio, unashamedly offering easy listening to more senior citizens. Add these three to BBC Radio's planned five networks, and to the two stations each for Capital Radio and LBC, and you get a choice for Londoners by the end of this year of a dozen different sounds. The IBA radio section, as it gently elides itself into the Radio Authority, is deliberately forcing the pace and stretching the market. The assumption seems to be that as London goes, so, too, in future years may go the nation.

Jazz FM's remit seems wide enough, allowing it to play not simply jazz, but also "jazz-related" music 24 hours a day. In a field which can easily become scratchy with enthusiastic rivalries, the latitude is clearly wise. Already the programmers have identified a dozen mainline sectors from which the music will be drawn: Afro, Bebop, Contemporary, Fusion, Latin, Mainstream, Big Band, Swing, Trad, Blues, Soul, and Gospel. There being no agreed definition of what truly is jazz, the idea is to be "as broad as possible without losing faith".

None of which stops office argument reminiscent of Radio Three sessions about who does and who does not qualify as Composer of the Week. At Jazz FM, Astrud Gilberto is "in", reinforced by the Getz connection, but Joni Mitchell, jazz-related or not, is currently "out". Coming bang up to date, no one seems quite sure what to make of Tracy Chapman. Elsewhere, the Sinatra canon is being taken apart, track by track, to see what qualifies as playable, and a lot does not. With some relief, all agree to rally round Ella Fitzgerald, the First Lady of Jazz, as in some sense the heartbeat of the station. She is responding by being on hand for the Jazz FM launch, offering too a string of concerts.

These keen — and yet for outsiders arcane — arguments perhaps explain why

other broadcasters have, by and large, steered clear of jazz, offering little and late, seeing it purely in a minority light. Not surprisingly, the new station is more bullish, believing that there is a large untapped enthusiasm, mostly in the ABC 25-45 age group. The aim is a weekly reach of 13 per cent or more, about a third of those attending to Capital's two established services, and about two-thirds of those listening to LBC's talk-based offerings. And if the average listener listens for 10 hours or so each week, then Jazz FM will pay its way.

At the outset, the station is making firm noises about style. It wants less chat than is found elsewhere, insists that commercials should not be repeated too frequently, and would prefer them to exhibit something of the station's jazz flavour. It also intends to use them sparingly.

What is not yet clear is how great a conversion job the new station faces. As a nation, we are more cautious as listeners than we are as viewers. When viewing we tend to play the field, trying a little of everything, if not for long. So the

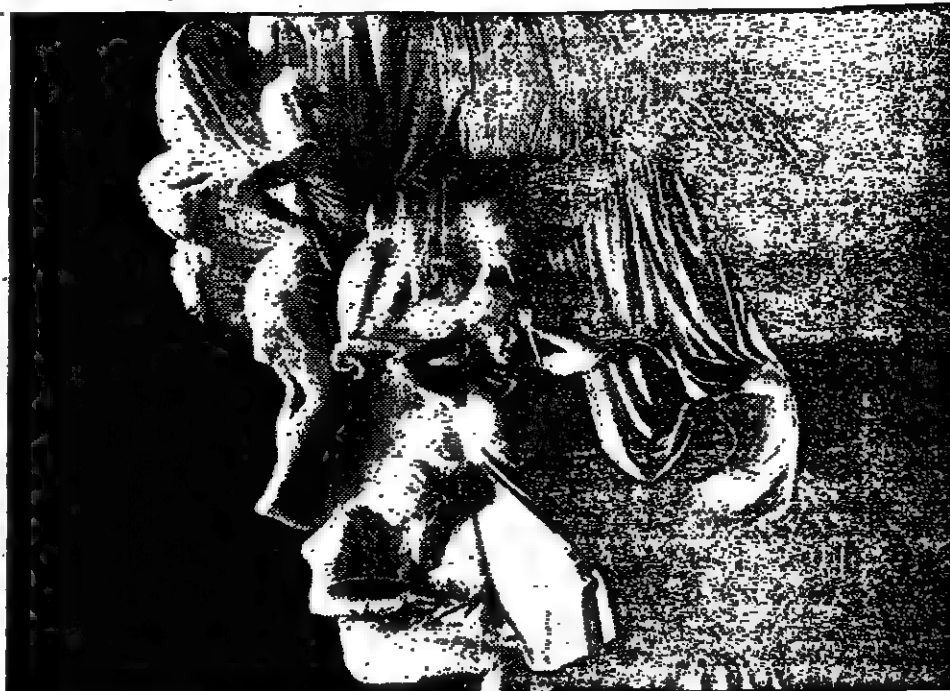
average take-up of television channels is three to three-and-a-half per week. But our average take-up as listeners tends to be around two stations a week, no matter how great

the choice. That would seem to imply that Jazz FM, and the two other stations soon to follow, will need to make inroads into established loyalties. "New" listeners on their own are unlikely to do the trick. There should be interesting battles ahead.

From the point of view of the new Radio Authority — and of the radio business generally — much hangs on the outcome of these early skirmishes. New 1990s radio has advantages denied to new 1990s television. You simply have to find the new noise and tune in to it, whereas new television comes with its confusing and costly complexity of dishes and decoders. This is why some of the shrewder City brains see radio as the tidy little earner of the decade, while television struggles to muddle through several years of planned turbulence. But the calculation assumes we make the effort and, in so doing, redefine ourselves into those specialist and targeted audience segments that advertisers prize. Jazz FM, with its promise to advertisers to deliver a "truly selective sophisticated audience", will be hoping that we will.

BROADCAST  
Brian Wenham

It is possible to be challenging and effective. It's just more difficult, that's all



Contrast on screen: the surrealist Nurofen advertisement (left) could take the design/art direction award, but Radion's successful concept will not be considered



## Good art or good seller?

The advertising industry tonight chooses its best commercials. Alex Sutherland explains how the offerings will be judged

Tonight at the London Palladium, the British advertising industry will celebrate the past year's achievements. But if you thought achievement was about nothing more than shifting soap powder or pet food, think again. Tonight's proceedings — the second Golden Break awards ceremony — will applaud those advertisements that were laughed at, "ashb-ed" at, or enjoyed most.

The director Hugh Hudson (*Chariots of Fire*) is up for best director for his aerial photography in the British Airways "face" advertisement, with Tony Kaye's duck caught in a river full of litter for the anti-litter campaign, and Hughie Johnson's "O'Malley" advertisement for Whitbread Malt. Hudson's BA commercial is also nominated for best design/art direction, as is Gold Greenlees Trot's stunning Arcim Boldo-style surrealist head for Nurofen.

Lenny Henry (Alpen/Weetabix), Andrew Sachs (the broker in the Halifax advertisement), Russ Abbot (Castella Classic) and John Cleese (Talking Pages "ramblers" commercial) will fight for the best actor title, while Vanessa Knox-Mawer (Carling Black Label), Maureen Lipman (British Telecom) and Gabrielle Drake (Yellow Pages) are up for best actress. And it is difficult to imagine that the Carling Black Label squirrel scampering over the assault

course to the Mission Impossible theme tune will not get recognition in the animal category.

But although the shortlist reflects an industry that seems to be outdoing itself in producing more creative images every year, you can be sure that the one advertisement is unlikely to feature in an artistic awards ceremony is that for Radion, the Unilever product, which is claimed to banish smells and dirt.

With its traditional housewife image and 1950s-style presenter, it makes an unabashed commercial statement. Yet the campaign, launched here in September and adapted from the one used in the rest of Europe and the United States, is set to become the success story of the year. In the first week in February the advertisement reached the top of *Marketing* magazine's Ad Watch chart for spontaneous audience recall, and after five months Radion has secured 9 per cent of the low suds soap market, which last year totalled £627 million.

Alfredo Marcantonio, former deputy chairman of WCRS Matthews

Marcantonio, and chairman of the Golden Break judges, admits the success of such campaigns seems to question the notion that effectiveness and advertising creativity go hand in hand. But he makes no apologies for excluding the advertisement tonight: "There are a lot of commercials which sell products which are not particularly adventurous or inspiring. And I have to admit that the advertisement is selling a lot of washing powder."

He says: "Effectiveness cannot always be the criterion of quality. The easily palatable is often more successful than the challenging. But it is possible to be challenging and effective. It's more difficult, that's all."

In 1979 the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising set up its own "effectiveness" awards, given every two years to campaigns with the best response. The winners — Krona margarine and Dettol in 1980, SuperNoodles, Kellogg's Corn Flakes, and Window Locks for the Home Office in 1982 — seem to veer towards the Radion camp.

And until the last ceremony — in 1988 — only one winner, Abbott Mead Vickers Cow and Partners baby meals campaign, had ever won a gold or silver Designers and Art Directors Award, regarded by many as the top creative accolade.

The strike rate improved only in 1988 — in 1986 virtually none of the effectiveness winners scored creative awards — because the institute rewrote its guidelines, allowing the judges to take creative effects into account.

For Unilever, like other mass-market clients, it is the campaign's effectiveness and not the artistry that ultimately counts. Unilever says it chose a traditional, straightforward format for Radion because research showed it was the best way to get across a new product to a mass market. "The adverts do not have the emotion of a Persil campaign, for instance," the company's information services department explains. "But with Persil, unlike a new brand, we don't need to explain the benefits."

Chris Powell, chairman of the BMP agency, says: "There have always been two sorts of agency — those producing boring work and those producing work which, although bright and bubbly, can do little for the product. The struggle is to do both — creative work that works, and work that stacks up."

The Golden Break Advertising Awards will be shown tonight on ITV at 10.35.

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Woodrow Wyatt's now-famous allegations in *The Times* that Radio 4's *Today* programme "provides a steady drip-drip diet of anti-Government propaganda" has brought a flurry of heated contributions from all sides, including John Birt, deputy director general of the BBC in charge of journalistic output.

And the confidence with which Kenneth Clark, the Health Secretary, dealt this week with *Today*'s survey of predicted regional Health Service overruns — without actually telling interviewer John Humphrys "You would say that, wouldn't you?" — suggests that ministers have gratefully taken the Wyatt message to heart.

Many regular listeners to *Today*, of whom there are six million every day, might argue that there is nothing new in ministers' tactical deafness when confronted with anything they don't want to hear, and that they have long been adept in the art of the non-answer — or, more precisely, in the art of the complete answer to the unasked question.

But do the men with the responsibility of advising party politicians in the science of interview-handling really believe that *Today* is biased towards the left? And, if so, how are they teaching their august pupils to respond?

Harvey Thomas, a public relations consultant who is also consultant director of presentation to the Conservative Party, has no doubt that the *Today* team is tilted against the Government and contends ("This is an observation rather than an accusation") that the interviewers often require ministers to defend themselves before they have a chance to set out what it is they have to defend.

"I would have no objection," he adds, "if the interviewer said: 'You've got two minutes to state your case and then I'm going to tear you apart'. In fact, I'd like that to happen more often. But the minister comes on to announce, say, an important new discovery, and is immediately asked why he hadn't discovered it five years ago."

If Labour were to win the next election, would they not then be in the same hot seat? "No, I don't believe it is the same for both sides," Thomas says. "You see, radio works on the principle that emotion is interesting and reason is dull. The plight of the poor home-

# Left, right or centre?

William Greaves looks at the conflicting views on political bias by presenters of BBC Radio's *Today*



Woodrow Wyatt (left) and John Birt: where politicians see propaganda, journalists see balance

less" makes better radio than "Statistics show that there are now fewer homeless...". In fairness, I think it is largely unintentional, but as Conservatives represent reason and Labour the emotions, it will always be the same way round."

So if such rough treatment really is inevitable, what advice does he offer the ministers who come to him for it? "I often remind them that a soft answer turneth away wrath," I know that Nigel Lawson once said to Brian Redhead "Of course you are a keen Labour supporter, but, by and large, I prefer the more humorous, less aggressive, response. Politicians usually tend to talk in jargon, so something homely like 'What a load of rubbish' often does the trick."

"And I tell them to listen to the question, don't chime in until it's finished, prepare themselves thoroughly for the

one they think they are bound to get, restrict themselves to no more than three concise points of reply, and, they have nothing to say, don't go on the radio to prove it."

Labour's broadcasting officer, Tony Beaton, says the *Today* team "does the job I would expect them to do", while insisting that there have been times when he has remonstrated with the BBC about bias shown against his party.

"No one on our side of the House should regard it as an easy ride," he says, "and my advice to anyone who asks is that they must expect the interviewer to draw the argument out of them. It is just that the Government ministers are having a bit of a rough time at the moment because their policies are not easy to defend."

Greville Janner, the Labour MP for Leicester West, who is

also chairman of a company called Effective Presentational Skills, has always made his advice available to his own party colleagues, and retained more than 60 Labour front and back benches for the advent of the television cameras.

"Of course the interviewer will try to set you off on the wrong foot," he says. "That's the challenge, and if you don't like it you should keep out."

"My advice for radio interviews is simple. Never lose control of yourself. People listening at home don't like to hear rudeness, so if the interviewer is rude and you don't rise to it then you've won. Remember that you've been asked on to the programme because you know more about the subject than they do, so take your time, take a deep breath and remember to do your PREP — state your Position, give your Reasons, offer an Example and then

restate your Position."

With so much expert guidance available, how hard is it for the current team of *Today* presenters to get the answers they seek? Do they see themselves as thorns in the Government's side and how skilful are their subjects becoming in the art of survival?

Sue MacGregor, long-serving presenter of *Woman's Hour* before joining *Today*, is characteristically calm in the teeth of the storm. "One tries to be a good journalist and play devil's advocate," she says. "In order to test a proposition, you have to adopt a slightly adversarial approach and at the back of your mind must always be the need to ask the questions that the listener would expect you to ask."

"I know that editorially we try to maintain a balance and, wherever possible, get spokesmen from both sides. This cannot always be done and sometimes it might be a day or two later that the other view is presented but, for instance, we have had Kenneth Clark and Robin Cook in the same programme."

He does, however, agree with co-presenter Redhead that the Government of the day has the power to put its proposals into practice and that those proposals must, therefore, be examined more closely in that light.

And if the question is ducked or the interviewer tries to deliver an uninterrupted party political broadcast — "You can ask the question again in a slightly different form and then say, just once, 'Mr or Mrs X, you haven't answered my question'. After that the dog must leave the bone — listeners are intelligent enough to know what is happening."

"Stopping people talking is not easy on radio because two people speaking at once soon becomes very confusing. A frequent trick adopted by both Conservative and Labour politicians is to avoid looking you in the eye and, short of reaching across and kicking them under the table, there's not much you can do about that. I once indicated to one of them that he only had one more minute and he accused me of waving my finger at him."

But there are no signs that Government ministers are becoming more backward in coming forward. Could this be because Mrs Thatcher is such an enthusiastic member of *Today*'s audience?

## The reporting gag that still stifles South Africa

President de Klerk has lifted some restrictions on the media, but many remain in force, the opposition Press says

Some journalists suffered banning orders and Pretoria tightened the stranglehold by restricting funding.

The most recent action was taken against *New Nation*, threatened with closure after allegedly publishing articles "calculated to cause public disorder". Zwelakhe Sisulu, its editor, the son of ANC leader Walter Sisulu, spent

The government had a 10 pound sledgehammer to hit the media with. Now it has a five pound hammer

almost three years in jail without trial. Once released, he was banned and forbidden to "contribute, prepare, compile or transmit, in any manner whatsoever, any matter for publication". But Sisulu said he "refused to be cowed and co-opted into 'state journalism' by finger-wagging officials". Restrictions on him have now been lifted and he is working as Mandela's press officer.

Despite reforms, laws in existence before 1986 will stay. *New Nation*'s acting editor, Gabu Tugwana, says: "Even before the State of Emergency, you had regulations. There are more than 100 which prevent you writing about the police and the army. The state press even mentioned tightening the Internal Security Act."

Under the act, no-one may publish "material which could cause feelings of hostility between different races". In addition, the Publications Act

of 1974 prohibits publications which are "undesirable" morally or those which "prejudice the safety of the state".

There is still strict control of reporting of police activities. If a court action is taken over the reporting of an incident involving the security forces, the media has to prove that its coverage is factually correct. It remains illegal to publish the photograph of any imprisoned person.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement remains unconvinced of the apparent new Press freedom. James Richardson, a spokesman, says: "Rather than using the State of Emergency and coming down heavy-handed, they are doing a lot of little things to scare people. They are putting legislation together to get the Press to censor itself."

Television, too, seems to be going through a period of change. The coverage of Mandela's release by the South African Broadcasting Corporation — long thought of as simply a tool of government — was an unprecedented step. Images of the ANC flag accompanied by a commentary announcing "total jubilation, total excitement, total joy" would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

But, for all this apparent change, the white power structures of the SABC remain, and any change in style may derive from government influence, eager to portray the dismantling of apartheid.

Mike Woodbridge, BBC Radio's Southern Africa correspondent, says: "They've certainly been more co-operative. Access to ministers has been good and generally the government's attitude has been very helpful. They obviously want to maintain good media coverage."

But Tugwana, of *New Nation*, wants to intensify his editorial line. "The alternative media has forced the government to begin easing off. There is no point in relating as apartheid has not come to an end. It has just been given a new face."

Tony Smith

The author is a freelance journalist for *New Nation*, an agency dealing in Third World news coverage.

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## BBC BBC BBC

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● BUSINESS & FINANCE 25-33  
● LAW 31  
● SPORT 43-48

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7045 (+0.0010)  
W German mark  
2.8567 (+0.0016)  
Exchange index  
90.0 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1789.0 (-14.5)

FT-SE 100  
2277.0 (-20.1)

USM (Datastream)  
153.54 (-1.03)

Market report, page 30

Blue Arrow  
rights talks

UBS-Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker involved with the County NatWest in the £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue, has reopened talks with disgruntled London institutions concerning possible compensation.

Campari falls

Pre-tax profits at Campari International, the leisurewear group, fell from £4.76 million to £4.15 million for the year ended November 30. The final dividend is 8p (6.5p), making 10p (8.5p). *Times*, page 26

Cityvision up

Cityvision's pre-tax profits rose from £5.43 million to £12.5 million in the year to end-November. A 0.5p final dividend makes a 0.75p, up 50 per cent. *Times*, page 26

Coloroll stake

Mercurius Gruppen, the Swedish investment group, has taken a 5.03 per cent stake in Coloroll.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2591.87 (-43.92)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	3889.52 (-327.08)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2980.80 (+12.90)
Amsterdam	Amsterdam	107.4 (-1.7)
Sydney	Sydney	1630.4 (-15.5)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1623.81 (-45.38)
Brussels	Brussels	6822.20 (-100.47)
Paris	Paris	488.79 (-7.22)
Zurich	Zurich	611.9 (-5.8)
London	FT-30	1789.0 (-14.5)
	FT-100	2277.0 (-20.1)
	Gold	307.0 (+4.4)
	Fixed Interest	90.73 (+0.03)
	FT Govt Bonds	78.67 (-0.02)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISE:	A & C Black	425p (+30p)
FALLS:	Body Shop	555p (-10p)
	Woolworths	282p (-10p)
	Commercial Union	490p (-14p)
	Unilever	320p (-40p)
	Davies & Newman	635p (-20p)
	Robertson	144p (-13p)
	Cable & Wireless	533p (-11p)
	Borland	715p (-23p)
	Canadair	227p (-10p)
	Procter & Gamble	330p (-13p)
	Rank Org	778p (-10p)
	Eastern Produce	347p (-10p)
	News Corp	485p (-18p)
	Thomson Corp	765p (-10p)
	Burnham	642p (-10p)
	A McAlpine	345p (-13p)
	Tarmac	217p (-10p)
	Closing prices	
	Bargains	23059
	SEAO Volume	377.4m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank	15.25%
3-month eligible bills	14.14%
US prime	7.25%
Federal Funds	8.75%
3-month Treasury	7.75-7.78%
30-year bonds	9.87-9.88%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.7045	£: \$1.7045
£: DM2.8567	£: DM2.8567
£: Sfr1.5337	£: Sfr1.5337
£: FF9.7156	£: FF9.7156
£: Yen247.32	£: Yen247.32
£: Index57.0	£: Index57.0
ECU 20.71622	ECU 20.71622
ECU1.38558	ECU1.38558

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$419.05-419.05
close \$419.50-420.00	(2446.00-2446.50)
Gold:	Comex \$419.00-419.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr)	\$19.55 bid (\$19.60)
Denotes latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.375	2.78
Austria	20.50	19.79
Belgium	32.55	32.75
Canada	2.115	2.015
Denmark	11.43	10.82
France	10.11	9.51
Germany	2.08	2.00
Greece	262.50	265.50
Italy	12.50	12.06
Japan	1.13	1.06
Spain	22.15	20.85
Sweden	1.32	1.25
Switzerland	3.34	3.18
Netherlands	11.51	10.85
Portugal	20.50	19.79
South Africa	4.86	4.25
Spain	1.91	1.79
Sweden	1.10	1.03
Switzerland	2.54	2.48
Turkey	4.55	4.25
USA	1.785	1.68
Yugoslavia	1.785	1.68

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 119.5 (January)

# Announcement comes after shares are halted at 34p

## Mirman prepares to call in administrators at Sock Shop

By Michael Tate  
Deputy City Editor

Miss Sophie Mirman will seek to place the running of Sock Shop in the hands of the administrators this morning. She and her board will ask the Companies Court to appoint administrators to the company in the belief "it will ensure the survival of Sock Shop as a going concern."

A statement said the move would "lead to the approval of voluntary arrangements with creditors and shareholders to secure a re-financing. In the view of the directors, the long-term viability of Sock Shop will be best preserved by this course of action."

Miss Mirman, who with Mr Richard Ross, her husband, founded the company and control 81 per cent of the share capital, said: "I am confident that the Sock Shop concept will survive. We have an exciting new series of products for the 1990s, and enjoy strong consumer support."

Trading in Sock Shop shares had been halted earlier in the day.

The company asked for a temporary suspension of dealings "pending a further announcement." They were last traded at 34p, valuing the business at £7.48 million. On May 14, 1987, the day the shares were first traded, the company had been valued at £63.75 million - 290p a share. It had been one of the most spectacular share issues ever, with the public subscribing 53 times over. By the following August, it had peaked at £71.5 million, or 325p.

Sock Shop confirmed just after Christmas that it was attempting to put together a refinancing package, after sinking heavily into the red. It is thought to have been looking for a new equity partner since last summer, when it first became clear that the business was running into problems.

Earlier this month, Miss Mirman, who is chairman and joint managing director, disclosed just how serious these were when she unveiled an

interim pre-tax loss of £3.97 million and confirmed that the group's net assets were worth less than half its called share capital of £11.1 million.

It also gave warning that it expected to write off £4.8 million on its disastrous 17-branch US operation.

The pre-tax loss was blamed on a series of events including the unusually hot summer, rail strikes which affected revenue at shops near stations, a rise in interest rates and a failed attempt to establish the company in the US.

The downturn in trading has made it impossible to service the group's £16 million of borrowings.

The Companies Court is a creation of the 1986 Companies Act and a request for the appointment of administrators is seen as a rough equivalent of a filing for chapter 11 bankruptcy in the US. It enables a troubled business to keep its creditors

temporarily at bay while refinancing plans are pursued.

The proposed administrators are Mr Peter DeBlason and Mr Philip Sykes, of BDO Binder Hamlyn. Their appointment, the statement said, had the support of Barclays Bank, the company's bankers.

Miss Mirman, who is still only 33, began her career at Marks and Spencer, starting in the typing pool and ending up as secretary to Lord Sieff, who was later to join the Sock Shop board as a non-executive director. He resigned only last December after major surgery.

While still only 24, Miss Mirman was headhunted in 1981 to help start Tie Rack, and it was there that she met Mr Ross. Frustrated by the owners' reluctance to allow them any equity involvement, they left 18 months later to form Sock Shop, a concept generally attributed to Miss Mirman.

Today, Sock Shop runs a chain of 109 outlets in Britain.



Mirman: 'concept to survive'

## Dow falls 40 points on Fed caution

From James Bone  
and Susan Elliott

Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, has expressed cautious optimism that the US economy is over the worst danger of slipping into recession but said inflation remained a prime concern.

Nervous stock and bond markets drew the conclusion that further reductions in interest rates had been postponed almost out of sight. Dealers also expressed concern about higher interest rates abroad and lower-than-expected corporate earnings in the fourth quarter of last year.

By mid-afternoon, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 42.80 points at 2,592.79. US bond prices were sharply lower, with yields on long-term Treasury bonds rising to 8.63 per cent.

Also contributing to the market decline was the quarterly review of corporate earnings by the *Wall Street Journal*, which showed that net income of 631 corporations fell 14 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1989 from a year earlier, compared with an 18 per cent drop in the third quarter.

Mr Greenspan reinforced the market's view that the Fed was unlikely to lower interest rates soon by saying the US economy had passed the danger point for an imminent recession and should continue modest growth for the rest of the year.

He told the House Banking Committee in the Fed's semi-annual report to Congress: "While we cannot be certain that we are as yet out of the recessionary woods, such evidence warrants at least guarded optimism."

Mr Greenspan said the governors of the US central bank and presidents of the eight regional reserve banks predict "continued moderate economic expansion over 1990, consistent with conditions that will foster progress toward price stability over time."

He added that the Fed's 1 per cent lower targets for money supply growth - 3 to 7 per cent for M2 and 2.5 to 6.5 per cent for M3 - would help.

Mr Greenspan's testimony did not surprise economists, who consider that the Fed has achieved its goal of slowing the US economy sufficiently to dampen inflation.

The Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee said it expects America's GNP to grow between 1.75 per cent and 2 per cent in fiscal 1990.

## Debt-hit NatWest slumps by £1 bn

JAMES GRAY

By Neil Bennett



Smiling through: Lord Alexander says that NatWest's tough decisions on debt provisions offer a platform for progress

National Westminster Bank, Britain's largest high street bank, saw its pre-tax profits slump by more than £1 billion to £404 million in 1989 after having to make a further £990 million provision against Third World debt.

The bank also made a £50 million provision to cover the costs of compensating investors in Blue Arrow, the employment services group, and the legal fees of two of its securities companies, which face criminal charges over the 1987 Blue Arrow rights issue.

The bank also announced plans for up to 11,000 job losses in the next three years to cut costs. Mr Robert Fleming, head of UK financial services, pledged, however, that there would be no redundancies. The bank has pinpointed administrative savings of £200 million a year in its branches.

Profits at NatWest fell 71 per cent to £404 million after setting aside £1.44 billion for bad debts. As well as Third World provisions, it has more than doubled normal provisions to £445 million in expectation of extra business failures and bankruptcies arising from high interest rates.

NatWest said that three-quarters of its Third World

debt was now provided for, and the rest was equivalent to only 7 per cent of shareholders' funds. The bank is also selling much of its Third World debt on secondary markets, some for as little as 15p in the pound. Third World exposure fell by £740 million to £1.76 billion, and the bank has continued to sell debts this year.

The final dividend is being

Comment... 27

raised to 11.38p, making the year's total 16.7p, an 18 per cent increase which was higher than forecast in the City.

NatWest shares rose 8p to 341p on news of the dividend and the higher-than-expected provisions. "It is a good performance," said Mr David Poutney, an analyst at James Capel, the broker. "NatWest is placed now to take advantage when interest rates fall."

Lord Alexander of Wealden, the chairman, said: "We have taken some hard decisions. They were 'a platform for further progress'. The increased dividend showed 'confidence in the underlying strength of the business'."

However, 1990 would bring "difficult economic conditions".

## VPI warns of interim profit dive

By Martin Waller

Shares of VPI Group, the public relations group formerly known as Valin Pollen, dropped 10p to 26p after Mr Angus Maitland, chairman and chief executive, told the annual meeting that figures for the first half to end-March would be substantially down on the £1.43 million before tax in the second half last year. In fact, indications were that VPI would do little better than break even.

The shares, 273p ahead of the 1987 market crash, slipped to less than 60p last month as pre-tax profits for the year to September fell from £14.1 million to £6.5 million.

Asked if profits could be expected in the first half, Mr Maitland said: "We have not talked about profits, we have talked about results." Mr Neil Blackley, analyst at James Capel, was expecting £2.4 million for the year.

## Growth in bank lending and money supply slows

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Growth in the money supply and bank lending fell last month, providing Mr John Major, the Chancellor, with better news from the financial sector in the run-up to the Budget.

At the same time the Central Statistical Office reported a fall in manufacturers' stocks during the fourth quarter of last year, suggesting a flexible response by industry to the fall in demand.

The narrow measure of the money supply, M0, fell last month by 0.2 per cent, bringing down the year-on-year rate of growth from 6 per cent to 5.8 per cent seasonally adjusted.

This is still well outside the target range of 1-5 per cent for the financial year 1989-90. The broad measure, M4, rose by 18.2 per cent in the year to January compared with 18.1

per cent in the year to December. Bank and building society lending on the M4 definition rose by £5.8 billion compared with an increase of £10.5 billion the previous month when the figures were distorted by end-quarter interest debiting. The rise compares with a monthly average for the past six months of £7.8 billion.

Analysis of lending by the clearing banks, which forms part of the total increase in M4 lending, shows that virtually the whole of the increase in clearing bank advances was to companies.

Raw figures not seasonally adjusted show a rise of just £23 million in lending to persons compared with an increase of £283 million in January last year.

Lending for house purchase fell by £7 million. This was

more than accounted for by a repayment of £58 million of bridging finance, but it compares with an increase in January last year of £299 million.

Mr Peter Spencer, of Shearson Lehman Hutton, said: "M0 seems to have bounced back up a bit in February. But the figures show policy is not only hurting but working."

Stockbuilding by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers fell in the fourth quarter by £219 million at 1985 prices and seasonally adjusted. This compares with a rise of £348 million in the previous quarter.

Manufacturers cut their stocks by £229 million after a rise of £298 million the previous quarter, and the ratio of stocks to output fell from 82.7 to 82.1.

## Anger as bid target refers discovery to Panel as well as police

### 'Bug' found in Laing Properties office

By Matthew Bond

A dispute broke out in the City last night after the discovery of an electronic listening device in the offices of a company which is the subject of a £440 million takeover bid from a consortium led by Sir Jeffrey Sterling, the chairman of P&O.

Laing Properties discovered the "bug" in the offices of a senior executive over the weekend. Its brief announcement to the Stock Exchange indicated just how far the world of espionage has infiltrated corporate life, by revealing that the offices had been searched only two months ago.

Police were investigating the discovery at the company's headquarters in Watford, Hertfordshire. But back in the West End, there was anger because the Laing

directors had also referred the matter to the Takeover Panel, the body that polices City takeover battles.

P&O, the shipping company, is making the bid in partnership with Chelsfield, the private company run by Mr Elliott Bernard. The companies clearly resented the implication that they might have planted the bug.

Mr Peter Thomas, a P&O director, said: "The form of the announcement by Laing Properties, with its unfortunate reference to the Takeover Panel and without any prior consultation with us, is wholly mischievous."

"We obviously deplore the fact that a device had been planted and we take it that Mr Chilver [Laing's chairman] has demanded a full police investigation."

In the City, there was widespread

speculation about who might have planted the listening device. A Stock Exchange inquiry has already been mounted into dealings in Laing's shares ahead of the takeover bid being announced, but to take advantage of advance information, any unscrupulous share dealer would have done better to bug the P&O offices.

Over the last few years, electronic bugging has become an almost everyday part of corporate life. Bugging equipment is freely available in shops, with the result that most big companies, together with their legal and banking advisers, now make regular sweeps of sensitive offices.

A Takeover Panel spokesman agreed that the bugging was more a matter for the police than for the Panel.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# Owners Abroad takes off in style

Last year two UK charter airlines collapsed and the press was full of stories about a sharp contraction in the package tour market.

Yet Owners Abroad, which wholesales aircraft seats, operates tours and runs an airline, has managed a 39 per cent rise in profits to £13.4 million and a 15 per cent increase in earnings to 8.89p for 1989.

Confused? Well so is most of the travel trade. Mr Howard Klein, chairman, points out that 1989 was in fact a record year for package tours, despite claims to the contrary. The number of UK holiday-makers travelling abroad by air actually rose a million to 12.5 million and Owners took more than its share of the rise.

One of the building blocks behind the company's sterling performance was Thomson's acquisition of Horizon in 1988. Last year was the first in which the market leaders, Thomson and Intasun, pursued margins rather than volume.

They deliberately trimmed their tour programmes in response to a lower than expected increase in demand, rather than dumping heavily discounted holidays at crazy prices.

The second key factor was Owners' establishment of the charter airline, Air 2000, in 1987. Its operating profits rose by 38 per cent to £8.1 million

last year, more than half the total.

Air 2000's nine aircraft are mostly Boeing 757s which can fly lucrative long distance routes to Kenya and Mexico as well as to the Mediterranean. All but one of the aircraft are based in Manchester and Glasgow and so the airline is less dependent on overmortgaged customers in the South-east.

Indeed, despite the expectation of an industrywide 25 per cent fall in package tours, brokers still expect a rise in profits to £16 million and earnings per share of 10.5p in the current year. That puts the shares at 64p on a very modest prospective p/e ratio of 6.

The heavily-indebted engineering and film camera group Eagle Trust holds 15 per cent and would be a willing seller at the right price. An Essex builder has a further 6 per cent, so a bid launched on the back of those two stakes cannot be ruled out. Hold on.

## Cityvision

Shareholders in Cityvision have had a good run since Mr David Quayle, the Q in the B&Q do-it-yourself chain, took over at about the 20p level in the summer of 1986—so much that Mr Quayle could afford to pitch a one-for-six rights issue at 120p yesterday.

But all good things must come to end and Cityvision,



Record year for package tours industry: Howard Klein, chairman of Owners Abroad, yesterday

Pre-tax profits grew from which has achieved its extraordinary growth on the back of an unprecedented boom in home videos, now has some tough decisions to make. The rights issue price compares with a fall of 4p to 133p after another set of strong figures. £5.43 million to £12.5 million in the year to end-November and fully-diluted earnings per share from 4.17p to 7.21p.

home market expected in the current year, is regarded as ex-growth.

Of the £25.2 million being raised, £16 million will be left in the bank after the repayment of borrowings and purchase of the Superflex shares, which brings the number of outlets to more than 600.

The spare cash will go on a risky expansion into Europe, along with even riskier and as yet unspecified further retail ventures in this country.

On a conservative assumption of £18.5 million pre-tax in the current year, the shares are selling on a multiple of 12.7—a sharp scaling-back of the sort of ratings enjoyed in the past but still hardly cheap.

In the end, a bid from one of the big groups remains a possibility, with management sitting on just 10 per cent of the shares, but they hardly look worth chasing until future policy is a little clearer.

## Campari

Campari International is an all-weather stock in a fair-weather sector. While classed, understandably, as a clothing manufacturer, it could make a case for something closer to a leisure sector rating.

Campari's ultimate customers are the 15 to 25-year-olds with no mortgages to swallow their earnings and whose last sacrifice would be

their casual clothing budget.

Appetites for tracksuits and ski-wear were dulled during the autumn, and the group could not escape a profits downturn from £4.76 million to £4.15 million. Not bad for a fashion-led clothing manufacturer in current conditions.

From all accounts, it seems that sales of its popular lines were sold out in 1989, by retailers' need to wind down their stocks of its competitors' products, a theory underlined by the increased interest already being shown in Campari's 1990-91 range.

Design and good sourcing are the Campari success formula. Its styles remain popular in a fickle market, and it has a reputation for keeping Far East suppliers in line. It has also successfully expanded into Europe. Its latest foray, into the Spanish market, will ensure that more than half this year's profits will be non-UK.

Profits of £4.75 million are pencilled in for this year. Now past tax losses have virtually evaporated, earnings per share growth will be slower, but 33p sees the shares selling for less than 5.3 years' earnings.

Yet for a fashion stock, Campari has impressive defensive qualities, sporting net assets of 162p a share and an ungaraged balance sheet. Earnings cover remains good enough to permit a dividend rise despite the fall in profits. A re-rating looks overdue.

## Sea Containers pays for abandoned deal

Sea Containers has agreed a "penalty payment" of \$5 million to be paid to Genstar Container Corporation of the United States in respect of Genstar's earlier agreement to buy its standard cargo container and chassis fleets. The deal has been overtaken by the agreed purchase of the bulk of the group's container operations by Tiphook, the British group.

Sea Containers will also try to terminate a similar deal, also pre-empted by the Tiphook purchase, with Irel Corporation for the purchase of its tank container and chassis businesses. If Irel refuses, the deal will be put to Sea Containers shareholders with a recommendation that it be voted down.

## P&P ahead at £11.1m

Pre-tax profits at P&P, the computer dealer, distributor and services company, advanced by 47 per cent to £11.1 million in the year to end-November. The results, which were slightly ahead of market expectations, group turnover increased by 58 per cent to £168.9 million. Fully diluted earnings per share rose by 16 per cent to 20.8p. The final dividend is 25 per cent up at 2.5p, making 3.6p (3p) for the year.

## Pericom shares up

Shares in Pericom, which had risen from a January low of 24p to 32p on Monday, rose a further 14p to 46p yesterday on news of talks taking place which may lead to an offer. Pericom, with interests in computer screens, moved back in profit in the first half of last year and results for the year ended September are imminent. Mr Ron Cragg, chairman, owns 50 per cent of the USM company.

## Boost for Hartwell

Hartwell, the Oxford-based motor distributor which is fighting a £172 million cash offer from the Saudi Arabian-owned Jameel Group, has been awarded a further Rover franchise in Liverpool, representing sales of about 2,000 cars a year.

The company has also won the Land-Rover/Range Rover franchise for the area. The awards boost Hartwell's Rover franchises to 14, along with six for Land-Rover/Range Rover. A spokesman for Rover said a Jameel victory in the takeover bid, which reaches its final stages next month, would make little difference to its plans.

"We believe that we would be able to continue with the same franchisees we have with Hartwell now, even if they came under new ownership," he said.

## In Shops to raise £9.7m

In Shops, which lets shop space to more than 3,000 independent retailers, is raising £9.7 million to finance further expansion by way of a 1-for-2.56 placing at 100p, organized by Albert Sharp, the broker. In Shops operates in 51 retail centres and seven business centres. After borrowings of £4.5 million are paid off the company hopes to expand into another six retail centres.

## Merivale into retail sector

Merivale Moore, the office and residential developer, is diversifying into retail property through a £70 million acquisition from Prudential Assurance. The company is to buy a portfolio of 287 shops from the Pru. An initial yield of 7.5 per cent should rise to over 15 per cent current returns. Hill Samuel is providing £40 million medium term finance, with the balance from existing resources.

## Really Useful delay

The Really Useful Group, Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's theatrical production company, has delayed announcing its figures for the half-year to end-December until the issue of the offer document by which the millionaire composer intends to take the company private again.

The figures were due yesterday, but are now likely to accompany the document, due around March 7. Mr Lloyd Webber revealed his plan to buy back RUG, valuing it at a total of £77.4 million, earlier this month.

# Japanese plan £50m UK ball bearing plant

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Koyo Seiko, the Japanese ball bearing manufacturer which is the third largest in the world, plans to set up its first European manufacturing centre in Barnsley, Yorkshire, investing about £50 million.

Production should start in 1991 and by 1993 it is expected it will have created 400 jobs.

It is the second Japanese boost for this part of Yorkshire within a month. Pioneer, the electronics manufacturer, is to open a £20 million facility at nearby Wakefield.

Koyo expects to expand the Barnsley factory even more, because the plant, designed to serve the single European market, is regarded as "only a start."

However, any decision on that is some distance away, and there is a similarly cautious approach to the possible introduction at some point of research and development facilities.

But Mr Douglas Hogg, the Minister for Industry with



Bearing up well: Saburo Ueno and Douglas Hogg examine one of Koyo's products yesterday

responsibility for enterprise, in announcing the investment, emphasized that the facility would not just be for assembly. It would also be a manufacturing plant.

Initially, the Koyo team

expects to have a local content of about 50 per cent, with a 75 per cent target within four years. The Japanese are seeking British steel supplies.

It remains to be seen whether the content issue may

cause friction elsewhere in the community in the same way that Nissan's car exports have from its North-east plant to mainland Europe.

Mr Hogg is supportive of Nissan's claims that it should

be treated as an EC producer and seems prepared to do the same for Koyo, an approach which may have helped persuade the Japanese to go to Britain rather than elsewhere in Europe.

The EC looks for at least a 60 per cent local content initially but Mr Hogg is not anticipating any problems with Brussels on this score.

Koyo looked at many possible European sites, including some others in Britain such as South Wales and Corby in Northamptonshire.

The Department of Trade and Industry is putting up £3.5 million in regional selective assistance towards the cost of the Barnsley plant.

The factory, expected to be Koyo's most modern, will be built on the cleared and serviced site of the former Dodworth colliery which was closed two years ago with the loss of about 1,000 jobs.

Mr Saburo Ueno, executive vice-president of Koyo, said most of the management at the plant would be British recruits. The availability of skilled management and workers

in the area were key factors in the location decision. But the Japanese undoubtedly saw the need to break into Europe before 1992 and are anxious over the effect the strong yen on exports.

When the Barnsley factory is fully operational it is expected to produce 24 million sets of bearings annually, amounting to 35 per cent of current exports from Japan.

The Yorkshire production is being seen largely as import substitution rather than the creation of additional sales.

Koyo expects about 85 per cent of Barnsley production to be exported from Britain to mainland Europe.

Koyo mainly makes automotive bearings and has large contracts with continental vehicle makers. But Barnsley is conveniently placed about half-way between the Nissan car plant in the North-east and the Toyota car manufacturing facility planned for south Derbyshire.

In Japan, Koyo supplies Nissan, Toyota and Honda among others. In Britain, it also has contracts with Rover.

## ABI joins market at 125p

By Sam Parkhouse

Shares in ABI Leisure, the caravan manufacturer, will join the market at a starting price of 125p when dealings begin on Monday.

Following the placing of 10 million new shares by broker Panmure Gordon the company will be capitalized at £33.2 million.

ABI will therefore have doubled in value since it was subject to a management buyout in October 1988. The directors will continue to own 38.5 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

From its base at Beverley, North Humberside, ABI sells more than 50,000 caravans and leisure homes a year in Britain, and the company has a 51 per cent share of the export market.

Borrowings of £6 million will be paid off to leave net placing proceeds of £6.6 million. The ABI board has forecast that pre-tax profits will grow 37 per cent to £5.9 million in the current year ending August.

This implies earnings per share of 15.3p, and puts the shares trading at the placing price on a multiple of 8.2.

The board is expecting a dividend of 4.7p, which suggests a likely yield of 5 per cent.

## Midlands Radio valuation set to exceed £20m on debut

By Melinda Wittstock

Midlands Radio, one the largest independent radio broadcasters in Britain, has tuned up for a market debut on Monday, to aid ambitions to acquire more local stations and one of the three national commercial radio franchises on auction next year.

The group, with four franchises and seven radio stations transmitting to 4.4 million adults in the Midlands area, is to join the full list through an introduction sponsored by Lazard Brothers and Cazenove which will value it at between £20 million and £25 million. Mr Ron Coles,

managing director, believes trading will start at around 160p, putting Midlands on a historic earnings multiple of 16 times—slightly above the sector average of 14.5. But analysts are expecting a debut price of about 190p.

He said Midlands has chosen not to raise any funds via a placing or a flotation because there is no immediate need for the cash.

Bidding for national franchises does not start until next year. He said Midlands would be interested in bidding either for a classical or an Asian national franchise. Midlands

reported 1989 pre-tax profits of £2.17 million on turnover of £10.6 million and earnings per share of 9.9p. It said it had also opted to join the stock market as a result of shareholder pressure for a market in the shares.

Its shareholders include Yattenden Investment Trust, JCB Excavators, and Crown Communications, each with 21 per cent.

BZW is forecasting pre-tax profits in 1990 of £2.6 million and earnings per share of 12.7p, putting Midlands on a prospective p/e of 15 times should it start trading at 190p.

## Baldock's PCL in the black

By Matthew Bond

Mr Robert Baldock yesterday announced a dramatic turnaround at Property Company PCL of London, the former shell company of which he took control two years ago.

Losses of £1.67 million in 1988 have been turned into a pre-tax profit of £2.14 million for 1989, although acquisitions prevent comparisons.

PCL's two core businesses were brought on board in 1989. The golf course devel-

oper, International Resort Holdings, reversed into the company, bringing with it PCL's current chief executive Mr Graham Fisher. The combined group reversed into the nursing home group, Lodge Care in a £23.5 million deal.

PCL also has a third division, IPC, involved in treating industrial waste.

Since the acquisition of Lodge Care, some element of turnover and profit previously

classified as extraordinary has been reclassified as ordinary.

Of the group's £11.8 million of turnover, some £5.8 million arose from disposal of nursing homes, now part of the group's ordinary course of business. It retains 16 homes with more than 600 beds.

PCL is to switch its year-end to March and has already declared a final dividend for the 15-month changeover period of 1.5p, making 2p (2.75p).

## Middle East write-off contributes to £3.7m loss

## Tuskar seeks an oil partner

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Tuskar Resources, which is about to start producing oil from its potentially massive oil discovery in Colombia, has revealed that it is in talks with potential partners to speed up development of the project.

The field could eventually produce more than 100,000 barrels of oil a day, but an estimated \$250 million would have to be spent on new wells and pipelines.

Mr Neil O'Donoghue, chairman of Tuskar, said: "We have had discussions with a number of possible partners and without exception they have broadly agreed with our technical evaluation

of the field. They are now in the process of making their own studies on the development and marketing of the oil. Following the conclusion of these we would expect to enter into negotiations with a number of them."

Tuskar reported a £14 million (£3.71 million) interim pre-tax loss for the six months to September last year compared with a £184,000 loss in the previous year because of the write-off of exploration spending in the Middle East. The loss per share of 12.15p compared with 10.15p.

Tuskar said its Arabex subsidiary closed its Dubai office

and consequently the £13.98 million exploration expenditure incurred in the Middle East had been written off. This was reflected in the consolidated profit and loss account with a net amount of £182.35 million showing as a loss.

Tuskar is confident it will move into "profitable production" within 12 months. Its initial production from the Rubiales field in Colombia is about 1,000 barrels per day and could increase to about 100,000 bpd by 1992-93.

Detailed examination of an oil discovery in Turkey is at an early stage but could have a "significant impact."

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# Apple founder bounces back with NeXT word in computers

By Melinda Wittstock

Mr Steven Jobs, the college dropout who revolutionized the computer world when he co-founded Apple Computers with a friend in a garage, is back with a high-powered computer called NeXT which is expected to become the computing milestone of the 1990s.

Nearly five years after his enforced resignation as Apple chairman, following a protracted corporate power struggle, Mr Jobs has put together a \$600 million company that boasts a multi-million dollar software licensing agreement with IBM, Apple's arch-rival.

The NeXT computer - a 12-inch cube with an array of pioneering features making highly-complex Unix multi-tasking and networking much simpler for users and programmers - was officially launched in Britain yesterday.

Designed originally for higher education use but now aimed at the business market, Mr Jobs' invention - which will soon be upgraded to handle software in many languages, including Japanese and Russian - boasts seven features which, he believes, will represent "most of the truly revolutionary advances" in computing this decade.

"There have been three milestones so far. The Apple II



Milestone marketing: Steven Jobs, left, with Derek Bythway, of Businessland UK, yesterday

revolutionized the industry, before being followed five years later by the IBM PC and two years later by Apple's Macintosh. We're trying to make a fourth," said Mr Jobs.

Some of the new features on the NeXT computer include built-in CD quality sound; a mail system that enables communication through the combination of text, graphics and voice; a removable optical disk system for vast and

reliable storage; a system allowing users to develop their own software in about one-third of the time; and a unified imaging system that shows on the screen exactly what is printed on paper.

NeXT is compatible with AT&T's powerful Unix workstation system for multi-tasking and networking. This means a user can simultaneously send or receive mail and compose a separate docu-

ment, while another programme, also simultaneously, recalculates a complex balance sheet.

It is believed IBM's payments to NeXT for the software licence in the first year alone could top \$50 million.

NeXT Inc has also won an exclusive marketing and sales agreement with Businessland, America's biggest seller of computers to US corporations, and has signed a deal

with Japan's Canon, which last year invested \$100 million in the company, to distribute the computer in Asia.

Mr Jobs, the president and chief executive, is calling on British software developers to write more programmes for NeXT and is soon to organize a British version of his "camp," where hundreds of programmers spend a week discussing software.

NeXT's software has been devised so far by more than 100 independent US companies, though Microsoft, which developed IBM's PC software and became the main developer of Macintosh software, is absent.

Britain is Mr Jobs' first port of call in a sales strategy that will supply all of continental Europe with the computer. "We've had hundreds of letters from European customers literally demanding to buy NeXT. But we believe you shouldn't sell something until you can back it up with proper sales and support organizations."

NeXT - which is 50 per cent-owned by Mr Jobs and 20 per cent-owned by its employees - plans an eventual stock market flotation.

Mr Jobs said: "At the moment, we are re-investing every dime, but sooner or later SEC rules will force us to go public."

## COMMENT David Brewerton Sophie Mirman agrees to put a sock in it

Nothing if not realistic, Sophie Mirman and her husband, Richard Ross, have accepted that, if Sock Shop is to survive, they have to step aside, at least for the time being. Assuming the judge does his thing this morning, control will be passed to the duo from Binder Hamlyn, who will work to their conclusion the tentative plans for financial restructuring which have been in the air since Christmas.

Administration orders are the nearest thing available in Britain to Chapter 11 in the US and their object is to allow companies to remain in business, protected them from the most pressing demands of creditors. If the Sock Shop retailing concept has a future, which the directors believe to be the case, there is every chance that the outlets will avoid becoming just so much more hard-to-let real estate.

Sock Shop, like Lowndes

Queensway, has discovered that, when the going gets tough, there is no substitute for a solid equity base and a wide spread of satisfied institutional shareholders. In the case of Sock Shop, the founders clung to too much of the equity, leaving the market with insufficient shareholdings. A shortage of shares might be a great way of propelling the price in a bull market, but, come the bear, the institutions are not sufficiently interested to devote the time and attention to a rescue.

There is no doubt that the Mirmans (or is it the Rosses?) will see their grip on the capital prised away and their shareholdings diluted in any rescue plan. Other shareholders will suffer the same fate. But, either as a financially-restructured entity, or as a subsidiary of some mega-retailer such as Sear's or Kingfisher, Sock Shop will ride again.

## Back to future at NatWest

National Westminster Bank may have emerged from the long nightmare of Third World debt which once threatened its existence, but it must now face fundamental questions about its future.

Even though the bank first announced higher Third World debt provisions last November, the figures are still a cheering sight. The £990 million charge has raised provisioning to three quarters of its problem country debt. Just £400 million remains unprovided for, 7 per cent of shareholders' funds. At their peak, the debts were larger than the bank's entire capital base.

As well as straightforward provisioning, the bank has used its relatively light Third World exposure to sell its debt at deep discounts. It traded out £730 million in 1989, and perhaps another £300 million since the new year.

There is more tidying up to be done, and the Brady Plan's Mexican refinancing package to be sorted out, but the bank will soon close one of the most difficult chapters in its history.

The problems National Westminster faces over the next 10 years however will be no less arduous. In the short term it has to cope with the downturn in Britain's economy. In 1989, the bank was able to combat increased pressure on its margins with a 20 per cent increase in advances. Now however, its loan book appears to have stagnated while receiverships and defaults are rising. A 105 per cent rise in bad debt provisions to £445 million stands NatWest in good stead, but it admits the year will not be easy.

Just as urgently, NatWest has to tackle its costs. The least attractive aspect of the figures was the 0.1 per cent rise in the group's cost-income ratio to 66.6 per cent at a time when other banks

are striving to bring theirs down. NatWest is planning a package of cost reductions, including 11,000 job losses and a £1 billion technology budget, to bring the ratio closer to 60 per cent within five years. Other banks are already aiming at lower. At a time when cheap telephone banking services are taking off, NatWest should either start cutting back its unwieldy 3,300 branch network or increase their business throughput.

Four months into his job as chairman, Lord Alexander has his work cut out.

## The ultimate pay-off

My thanks are due to a reader, Mr Harry Holt of Oxfordshire, for putting the banks' exposure to Third World debt into perspective. He points out that bank provisioning of up to 75 per cent of the face value of the debts of less-developed countries (LDCs), while painful, merely puts such debt on the same standing as that of the British Government's oldest borrowings.

War Loan, eligible for repayment since 1952, remains unredeemed and trading at under 35 per cent, while 2½ per cent Consols, "traceable in direct line to 1752 and repayable since 1923," stand below 25 per cent of face value. Treasury 3 per cent, the means by which the Bank of England was nationalized, sits square on the banks' worst assumptions of Third World indebtedness with only 30 pence in the pound realizable.

Mr Holt suggests that a Third World borrower with a sense of humour might care to buy a nominal amount of such gilts equivalent to his debt and tender it in full and final settlement. "After all, the responsibility for its redemption at par is in the safe hands of the British Government." The shareholders would love it.

## Owners Abroad basks in £13.4m

By Jeremy Andrews

Mr Howard Klein, chairman of Owners Abroad, said 1989 was "the best year in the history of the package tour operating, in terms of both numbers and gross revenue."

Official figures showed tour passengers increased by 1 million to 12.5 million, with spending on holidays up from £2.89 billion to £3.26 billion.

This helped explain why profits at Owners Abroad rose by 39 per cent to £13.4 million before tax in the 12 months to December on sales 29 per cent up at £320 million. Earnings per share, diluted by the £12.7 million rights issue in July 1988 and higher minority interests, rose by 15 per cent to 8.89p.

The pre-tax total was struck after a £1.34 million provision for the cost of introducing new aircraft at Owners' airline, Air 2000, up from £923,000 in the previous year. Air 2000 contributed £8.1 million of the

£14.9 million operating profits, a rise of 38 per cent.

There was also a £2.8 million extraordinary charge for losses at Paramount Airways, the Bristol-based airline whose seats were sold by Owners' wholesaling arm.

Because of this extraordinary charge, Owners plans a final dividend of only 1.8p, just 0.5p up on the 1988 final, leaving the total distribution 0.15p higher at 2.5p.

Mr Klein revealed that tour bookings for the current winter season were up 46 per cent and those for the summer were 34 per cent ahead of last year. He expected to sell 1.1 million tours in 1990, a rise of a quarter.

Air 2000's fleet is to expand to nine with the delivery of two more leased Boeing 757s. One will be based at Gatwick to give the airline better access to the South-east market. *Times*, page 26

## Batleys up on plan to go private

Batleys, the Yorkshire cash-and-carry business, is being taken off the stock market and put into the private hands of Mr Lawrence Batley, the current chairman, and his family.

Mr Batley has formed a company that is offering 170p a share for the 36.3 per cent not family-controlled, giving a 62 per cent premium over the price prevalent when the plan became public last November and valuing Batleys at £24.4 million. The shares rose 14p to 162p yesterday.

## Lazard looks to the East

Lazard Investors is launching a £45 million company to gain from developments in central and eastern Europe. Lazard Central and East European Investments is to be listed in London, with its share price quoted in marks.

It is to concentrate at first on benefits arising in West Germany, Austria and Italy.

## Gallagher at helm of whisky group

By David Young

American Brands, the maker of Jim Beam bourbon, has confirmed that it is paying £160 million for the Whyte and Mackay whisky group, which was put on the market last August by the Brent Walker Group.

The takeover, which is being carried out by Gallagher, American Brands' British subsidiary, will secure the jobs of the 800 staff employed by the Glasgow-based distiller. It also includes the Haig and Claymore brands of whisky.

Mr Michael Lunn, Whyte and Mackay managing director, welcomed the move and disclosed that Gallagher had been involved in discussions about a consortium being formed to take over the company. Gallagher had considered taking a minority stake in a buyout plan.

He said: "However, a number of factors were against us. The deal announced with

Gallagher is, we believe, the very best option for the future. Existing management will be allowed to develop the company on an autonomous basis from its Glasgow base."

Mr Anthony Househam, the chairman of Gallagher, confirmed that the existing management and staff will continue to run the company and that Mr Lunn will become chairman and chief executive. Brent Walker said that the £160 million cash from the disposal will be used to reduce debt after its investment in the William Hill Organisation and Mecca Leisure. A Whyte and Mackay overdraft of £7 million and its inter-company loan of £30 million to Brent Walker will be settled from the proceeds.

American Brands emerged as a last minute buyer for the distiller, which last year made pre-tax profits of £12.9 million on sales of £135.8 million.

## Key week in BAT fight for survival

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

BAT Industries began rolling out its big guns in California yesterday in what is seen as a key week in its attempts to thwart a further takeover bid from Sir James Goldsmith, the financier.

The tobacco and financial services group has to convince insurance regulators in only one of nine American states that neither Sir James' Hoylake Investments nor the French group Axa-Midi Assurances is fit to control its US insurer, Farmers Group, to

thwart the takeover ambitions of Hoylake. Sir James' off-the-shelf investment vehicle.

Axa has agreed to buy Farmers for \$4.5 billion and invest \$1 billion in Hoylake once Sir James controls BAT.

BAT's attack in California this week is intended to show how Farmers' policyholders will be worse off under the ownership of Axa-Midi and it will focus on the policy changes which Axa-Midi proposes involving tax and investments. Leading the

assault is Mr Charles Schultz, Farmers' chief financial director who has been with the company for 16 years, and Mr Jerry Falwell, the company Treasurer.

Star witnesses in the case - which the California insurance regulators want completed by this Friday - will be Mr Bruce Bunner, once in charge of California's insurance industry, and an academic, Mr Albert Hofflander, the Professor of Economics at the University of California at

Los Angeles, who specializes in insurance studies.

Farmers refuses to comment on the progress of its case in either California or Illinois, the first state to hear arguments and which is still taking evidence.

Meanwhile, Hoylake says that the fall of Drexel Burnham Lambert does not change any of its plans and that it will launch a fresh bid as soon as it gets clearance from the American insurance regulators.

## Arthur's new line at Scribes

John Arthur, a former chairman of London Investment Trust - these days LIT Holdings and with ex-Hill Samuel boss Christopher Castleman at the helm - has diversified into the leisure business. For Arthur, a chartered accountant who gleaned his early City experience while working at ill-fated merchant bank Slater Walker from 1971-76 - "I saw it all, I'm afraid," he admits - sold his 6 per cent interest in LIT for cash just before the 1987 crash and has since been investing in a number of different businesses. His latest venture, where he has just gone from a minority interest to outright control, is Scribes, a private club and restaurant - membership £50 a year - in Carmelite Street, and historically the haunt of journalists from nearby Fleet Street. With the previous owner Geoff Van-Hay now transferred to the basement of the old Barkers building in Kensington High Street, with the backing of its new occupants, Associated Newspapers, Arthur is tomorrow reopening the original premises and hopes to widen its clientele to bankers and lawyers. "It's been closed for two months for refurbishment and we've got a new manager and a new chef," Arthur tells me.

## Weighting game

Bookmakers at the City Road branch of George Walker's betting shop chain - he now owns William Hill and Mecca - know that City folk will bet

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Bridges of the Thames

Stockbrokers, merchant bankers, financial journalists and businessmen who frequent that most upmarket of City canteens - The Savoy Hotel - were serenaded after their lunches in the Grill and River Restaurant yesterday by a pianist with a difference. For striking the black and white keys in the hotel's Thames Foyer, playing jazz as softly as he could, was none other than film star Jeff Bridges, accompanied by his brother Beau, sons of actor Lloyd

Bridges. Here to promote their latest film, *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, about two brothers who play the piano in night clubs, they were posing for publicity photos when the urge to make music overcame them. "Their mother made them take piano lessons when they were children so they really can play," says their PR Carol Adams. "Everybody recognized them - the waiters rushed off to get their cameras and no one could believe their eyes - or ears."

on almost anything, including, it seems, the likely weight of the Duchess of York's next baby. According to a sign on display in the shop, bets so far range from 6lbs to 10lbs, with the favourite weight being 9lbs 5ozs, on odds of 9:1. In the unlikely event of twins, the



## Fair shares

A company gesture which breaks new ground comes from Rothmans Holdings, the 50 per cent Australian associate of the world-wide tobacco giant Rothmans International. The Down-under offshoot is making a one-for-five bonus issue and declares that fractions will not be distributed. But lest you think for a moment that it might be pocketing that small change itself, I have news. Rothmans informs its shareholders that "shares representing fractions will be sold and the proceeds donated to the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal" - the Salvation Army's annual drive for money to fund its good works.

## Halfhead bows out

Somewhat embarrassed to admit that he will be retiring before his grandfather's blue button - Marcus Colby, still with WI Carr - Robin Halfhead, a gilt-edged market-maker with UBS Phillips & Drew, will be leaving the City after 34 years next Wednesday. Halfhead, aged 51, and suffering of late from high blood pressure, plans to retreat to his Wiltshire home and recuperate for three or four months before deciding what to do next. "I feel like I've done enough," he says. "It's not as much fun any more. If I do decide to stay in the industry it will probably be with a country firm in Bristol or Cheltenham." Recalling how, in the 1920s, his grandfather Robert Halfhead and Godfrey King had formed the firm Halfhead & King, Robin's own introduction to the City was at Law & Roos, which specialized in South African gold shares, and where his father Douglas Halfhead was joint senior partner. "That firm ceased trading in 1974, because of government legislation, and shortly after that I moved to Moulds, the Liverpool-based gilt jobber." Moulds was bought by P&D in 1985 and Robin, together with several of his fellow Moulds partners - including its erstwhile senior partner John Woolfenden, these days group compliance officer at P&D - moved south again. "My father and three uncles all died within one month last year and I think it's time to take things easy."

Carol Leonard

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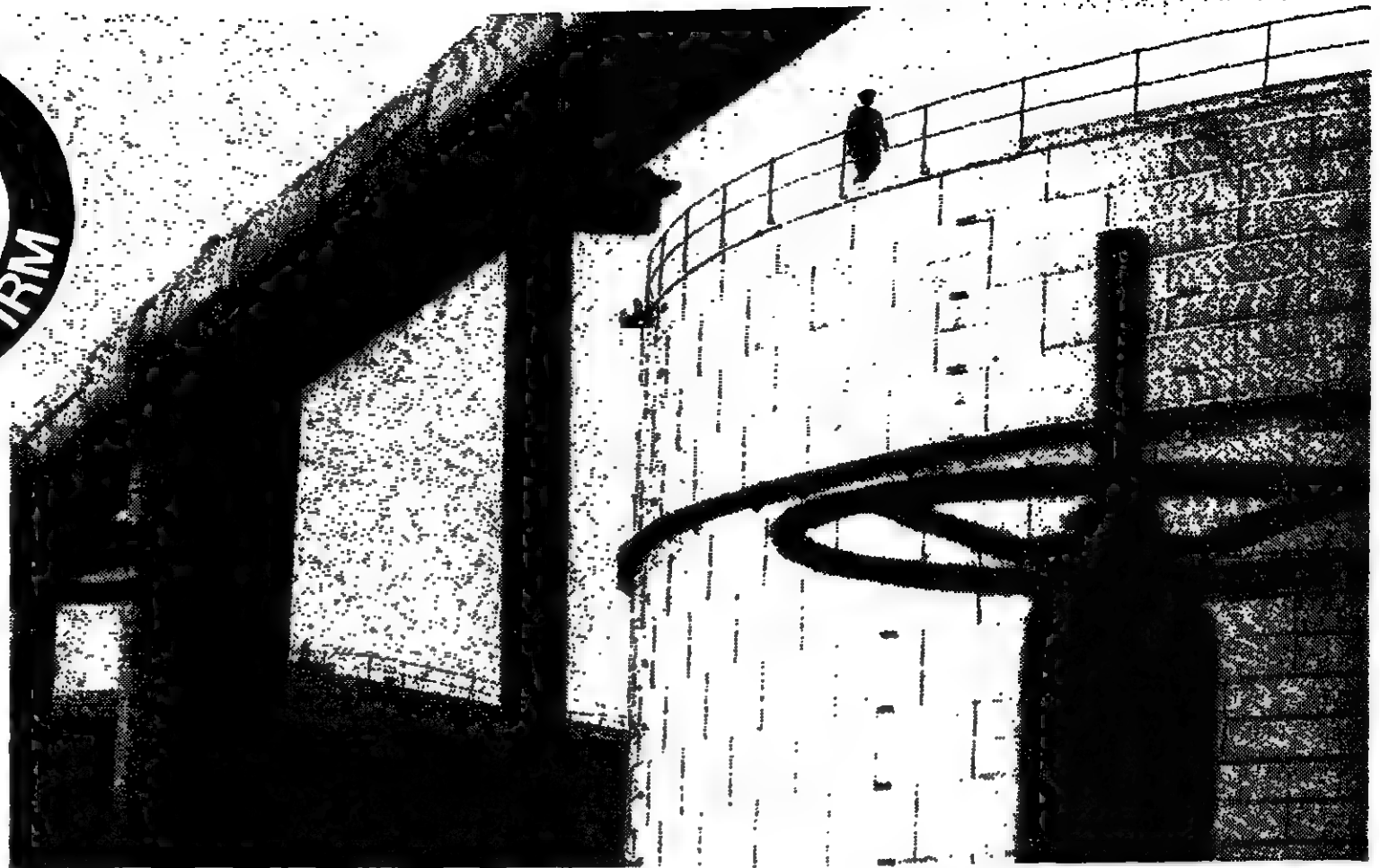
Maximum amount of deferred interest to accumulate is 10%. Example: Loan £60,000, term 25 years, payment rate 12.5% (APR 14.8%, variable) including an estimate of legal and valuation fees, net monthly interest payment of £538.44 with loan repayable at the end of the term. Mortgage guarantee policy may be required, loan secured by an endowment mortgage, minimum age 20 years. The Mortgage Corporation Limited, Dukes Court, Woking, Surrey. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.





## FIRST ON TOP

For the first time ever, a complete petroleum refining and marketing operation has been awarded the British Standard for quality, BS 5750: Part 2: 1987 (ISO 9002).



High atop the giant tank Richard Pyman takes samples of the fuel inside after every shift. To ensure that minute variations in production are controlled. Because for quality operation, you pay attention to small details. And big ones.

Phillips-Imperial Petroleum. Not for just a product or service. But Quality Assurance of the whole operation. Now PIP joins the distinguished companies registered by the British Standards Institution. After one of their largest audits ever.

What does it mean? “Producers of goods and services must satisfy their customers’ quality needs. BS 5750. This identifies the basic disciplines and specifies the procedures and criteria to ensure that a product or service which a company provides meets the customers’ requirements.”

And why has PIP undertaken a vigorous commitment to quality?

## QUALITY

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## Drexel offers Tokyo brokers the chance to salvage divisions

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Daiwa Securities and Nikko Securities, two of Japan's four big stockbroking companies, are weighing up approaches from Drexel Burnham Lambert, which has asked them if they are interested in picking over the bones of the collapsed US investment house.

Nomura and Yamaichi, Japan's other big brokers, were also sounded out, but appear to have decided against any deal with Drexel.

The lure for Japanese finance houses is that Drexel would offer them a springboard to expand their operations in the US. Since Drexel's Tokyo office is profitable, there is also a chance that an American company might consider buying Drexel's Tokyo branch as a first step into the Japanese market.

But even though Daiwa and Nikko are said to be considering whether there might be any benefits to salvaging part of the Drexel wreckage, both brokers appear to be a long way from making any decision.

Mr Osamu Abiru, a Daiwa spokesman, said: "It is true

that we were contacted by Drexel, but we cannot comment further because we don't have enough information on the company."

Mr Koichi Kimura, Daiwa's vice-president, said: "If we were asked to buy one of the divisions of Drexel, we would be very cautious about making a purchase. The junk bond market's prospects are extremely unclear. Also we suspect that the company's situation is considerably worse than the superficial debts indicated by the figures."

"If the company breaks up, there is a possibility of its head-hunting some of its personnel."

Nikko International, Nikko Securities' subsidiary in the US, was also approached by Drexel. Mr Tsuneo Iida, Nikko International's President told a Japanese newspaper in New York: "Before Drexel went bankrupt, they asked us to buy up the whole company. If this was not possible, they said we should buy up or invest in some division of the company. But the proposals didn't meet our

needs and we were not sure what assets the company possessed, so we couldn't reach an agreement."

"Even after their bankruptcy, the requests have kept coming, but the situation hasn't improved. From our point of view, we are interested in the talents in Drexel's research division and its futures dealing and options division."

"We are not involved in the junk bond market, which led to Drexel's bankruptcy, at all, and we don't intend to get involved in that area. Although the junk bond market will remain lucrative, the speculative boom the market enjoyed should diminish from now on. Conventional ways of issuing shares and bonds will become the norm."

Mr Hitoshi Tonomura, a director of Nomura Securities, said: "We are not considering buying up any part of the company for the time being."

Mr Hitoshi Ishihara, a director of Yamaichi, said: "Drexel itself doesn't appeal to us because the junk bond market has shrunk."

## British Gas backs small firms

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Gas has set up a venture capital fund to inject £15 million into small companies developing new technologies for the oil and gas industry.

The cash will be available to companies when additional funds could make the difference between success and failure.

Mr Robert Evans, British Gas chairman and chief executive, said that a new subsidiary, BG Ventures, will be looking for companies bringing new technologies, products and services to the market-place in activities related to the main business of British Gas.

He said that if British Gas was to continue to develop its business it must keep up the pace of innovation.

"We need to be flexible and

can no longer afford to rely entirely on our own research efforts to meet that challenge. We recognize the importance of encouraging others to help us. With that in mind, BG Ventures is being launched."

"As a result we - and we hope others - will benefit by sowing the seeds for future developments."

Mr Evans said: "In keeping with our global strategy, we have already invested \$5 million in Oulites Venture Capital Corporation, a North American Fund which specializes in investments in high technology companies, specifically of interest to our business."

The new fund will be managed by Electra Innovotec, a firm of professional venture capital fund managers. This is possibly the first time a pro-

fessionally managed fund with a single corporate investor has been established in the UK, although it is used in North America.

"Electra Innovotec has been chosen because it specializes in investments in innovative companies and early stage financing, and takes a 'hands-on' approach to its investments."

British Gas said that the fund management arrangements, which include the normal performance incentives for fund managers, should help ensure a good financial performance and a long-term commitment by the individuals in the fund management team to the fund's performance. In addition a member of British Gas's own staff will work on secondment as part of the team.



"Sowing the seeds for future developments": Robert Evans

## Green worries prompt audit

British Gas is planning to carry out an environmental audit of all its activities in the oil and gas business in response to increasing concern about the effects the industry has on the environment.

Mr Robert Evans told the Institute of Petroleum: "As we enter this new decade of heightened environmental expectations, British Gas is committed to a constant re-examination of what we are

doing and how we can improve our performance."

He also advised against the oil and gas industry becoming too large and unwieldy so that it was unable to manoeuvre.

He said: "At British Gas, with 79,000 employees, we are constantly examining how we can become more responsive and flexible, sensitive to the slight zephyrs which could become fresh breezes of change and opportunity. I

have implemented a new company organization which introduces a federal structure of autonomous business areas."

He added: "Flexibility, fleetness of mind and foot are crucial ingredients for success in the times that lie ahead of us. We should not forget that our industry was built by risk-takers and entrepreneurs, people with vision and ideas, not just well-insulated bureaucrats."

## Pifco rises to £1.5m at half time

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits at Pifco Holdings, the electrical appliance manufacturer, rose 37 per cent to £1.54 million in the six months to end-October.

Turnover increased 11 per cent to £12.58 million. The interim dividend is raised to 3.25p (2.5p), after a 33 per cent increase in earnings per share to 12.5p.

The results follow more improvements in Pifco's trading margins, which have climbed from 7.4 per cent in 1987 and 9.6 per cent in 1988, to 11.8 per cent in 1989, after a continued focus on quality products and cost-cutting. There was also a 147 per cent increase in investment income to £296,000.

Mr Michael Webber, the chairman, said: "The increase is a good result for the group, bearing in mind the generally difficult retail conditions."

There was strong growth from Carmen personal care products, and Pifco sold all its fans during the hot summer.

Mr Webber said Pifco's growth came from the small appliances market, in which products retail at an average of about £20. People finding it difficult to purchase more expensive electrical goods, such as washing machines and televisions, in the economic squeeze have tended to spend money on lower ticket items instead.

Mr Webber said he anticipated a satisfactory outcome in the full year, despite the unease in the retail market. The shares firmed 3p to 233p.

## Westpac buys 7.5% stake in ANZ

From David Tweed, Sydney

The purchase of 7.5 per cent of the ANZ Banking Group by Westpac Banking Corp, Australia's biggest bank, has reignited speculation that a significant rationalization of the Australian banking industry will start soon.

Westpac bought 67 million shares in ANZ from Mr John Spalvin's Adelaide Steamship for Aus\$408.7 million (£183 million) at Aus\$6.10 a share, enabling Adelaide to book a profit of about Aus\$70 million.

Banking analysts said if the industry was not primed for rationalization before yesterday, Westpac's move put the issue beyond doubt.

Before Westpac's acquisition, the most likely rationalization scenario was be-

lieved to have involved a merger between the National Australia Bank (NAB) and the ANZ.

Both have crossed their shareholdings in one another. The ANZ holds a 3 per cent stake in the NAB and the NAB holds a 4 per cent stake in ANZ.

Westpac has effectively dealt itself a hand if any deal is to be struck between its two competitors.

One analyst said: "I think Westpac has made the decision to buy a place at the bargaining table when the industry is rationalized - basically they are keeping their options open."

The NAB and the ANZ issued short press releases yesterday, but neither would

comment further. The ANZ statement said it viewed Westpac's purchase of its shares as "a vote of confidence in the strength and profitability of the ANZ by one of its major competitors."

Mr Matthew Percival, general manager, public affairs, said: "Talks have not been held between either the management or boards of the two companies on this purchase." Mr Stuart Fowler, managing director of Westpac, said his bank had bought the shares after becoming aware that a major holder was a willing seller.

"Due to our strong gearing ratio, the amount invested in short term liquids, the earnings impact of the transaction on Westpac is expected to be

minimal," he said. "The Federal Treasurer's approval for this transaction was not sought, as it was not required."

Under the Bank Shareholdings Act, no shareholder is permitted to go beyond a 10 per cent stake in a local bank without the approval of the Treasurer.

The approval of the Governor General is then required to exceed 15 per cent. Adelaide obtained the Federal Treasurer's approval when it built its 14 per cent shareholding in the NAB. The company also has a 7 per cent holding in Westpac.

Analysts said the ANZ situation would reinject life into the banking sector, with investors punting on the most

likely form of the rationalization.

The proximity of the federal election, due on March 24, added another dimension.

Mr Paul Keating, the Federal Treasurer, has previously indicated he would be concerned about the competitive implications of a merger between the ANZ and the NAB, although analysts said yesterday that the federal government appeared not to have ruled out the prospect.

Professor Bob Bax, chairman of the Trade Practices Commission, said the commission had been "pretty relaxed" about the possibility of a merger between the ANZ and the NAB, as the combined group's market share would not exceed 40 per cent.

## Gold set for 'a good year'

By Colla Campbell, Mining Correspondent

The combination of political and economic uncertainty is providing a more positive investment attitude towards gold than has been experienced for a long time, Mr Robert Guy, a director of N M Rothschild & Sons, told an investment seminar in Johannesburg yesterday.

He predicted that "it will again be another good year for gold."

Investor enthusiasm for gold has not been diminished, and although a higher gold price has already affected the physical market - and could constrain the jewellery industry - lack of physical

demand can be more than compensated by demand from investors, he said.

Mr Guy does not anticipate that the IMF will again institute gold auctions - as had recently been suggested - and believes that core holdings of gold by central banks as an official reserve asset will remain intact.

South Africa and Russia would continue to sell all their production because of foreign exchange needs.

Mr Guy noted that in October, Austria launched its own legal tender gold coin - the Symphony - and in the past four months had sold

gold coins totalling more than half a million ounces, or 15 tonnes.

The Austrian view was that the purchase of gold should not be taxed. If others in Europe followed the Austrian example, demand for legal tender coins would recover strongly, he suggested.

The "no tax on gold" idea was "food for thought for Britain" where coins were subjected to a 15 per cent tax and whose Royal Mint recently announced a reduction in its sales forecast for the British gold coin - the Britannia - by almost 50 per cent, Mr Guy added.

## HK banks to retain secrecy on reserves

From Lala Yu, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's banks are to retain their privilege to keep inner reserves secret despite the Government's plans for new banking rules.

Mr Anthony Nicolle, the Banking Commissioner, said yesterday that there was no question of requiring disclosure, despite moves to tighten regulation of use of reserves.

He said: "There is a need to ensure that banks don't indulge in creative accounting in order to pretend that they are still sound and solvent."

Hong Kong banks have

traditionally been allowed to use reserves to cushion unexpected losses.

Reserves have been the subject of intense speculation since the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp indicated that it might move towards fuller disclosure in line with British practice.

Mr Nicolle said the Hongkong Bank's stance was understandable because it was an international bank whose counterparts throughout the world were not used to the notion of secret reserves.

## T&N's African setback

T&N's South African subsidiary has turned in mixed results for its year to December. Turnover for T&N Holdings rose 67 per cent to R391.4 million (£90.4 million) and pre-tax profits from R20.5 million to R23.5 million -

results reflecting the first full-year inclusion of Asseng.

At the attributable level, earnings fell from 87.7 cents to 69.3 cents. The final dividend falls from 33 cents to 20 cents, leaving the year's distribution at 31 cents, down from 44.

## Nationwide Anglia

### NEW MORTGAGE RATES

From 1st March 1990

New Mortgage Rate 15.4%

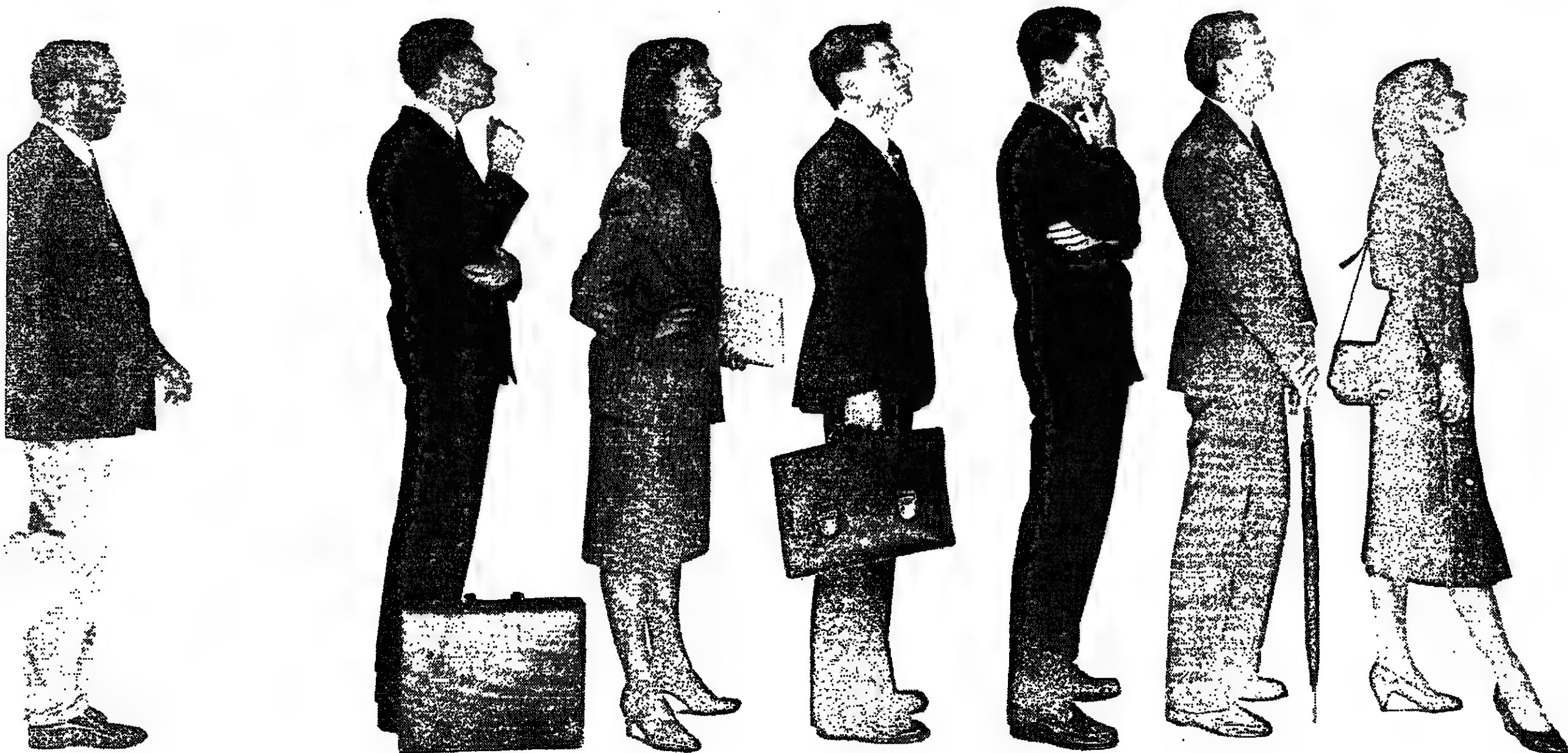
The rate of interest charged on existing mortgages for owner occupier borrowers with immediate and seven day notice accounts will be increased from 1 March 1990. Borrowers with other types of mortgage accounts will be notified of the effective date of the new interest rate in writing.

Where the account is not conducted on Budget Plan, borrowers will be notified in writing of any revision in their monthly payment.



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# WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR A FAX MACHINE













UNLISTED SECURITIES FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High
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هكذا من الأصل



**Figure 1**

● Ex dividend ● Ex all ● Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ● Pre-merger figures ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex scrip or share split ● Tax-free ● No significant data.



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## TIP TOP PA

£16,500 (neg)

Calm, efficient, tough - just some of the qualities required in this post as PA to two major players in the property field. Very professional and very efficient. Constant variety - both business and personal. A true PA role with development potential. Phone 434 0030.

## PA/Administrator - Esher £14,000 + benefits

Graduate level PA/Administrator required for Management Consultants. WP experience (Wordstar) a great advantage. Opportunity to get involved in every aspect of the business especially research. Must be able to work on own initiative. Languages an advantage.

## Personnel - City £13,000 + benefits

Excellent opportunity for a Non-Graduate to get involved in all aspects of Personnel, whilst using current sec skills. Audio/WP essential. Presentation must be impeccable. Lots of telephone work and client contact! Good communicator a must. Suit 2nd Jobber.

Please call 01-629 7262 Graduate Appointments (Rec. Cons.)

## GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

## CITY SECRETARY

SALARY: £14K PLUS

£4K BENEFITS

We require a cheerful, friendly, helpful Secretary to organize one of the most successful in the City. You will need polish and an excellent telephone manner as he handles the Private Client business for this top Merchant Bank. Duties include diary management, client contact, typing and admin. Shorthand preferred (ruary will suffice). Age 21+. Banking experience is not essential. Benefits include Mortgage subsidy, PPP, STL, Free lunch etc. Please call us now for more details.

01 283 0799 (Recruitment Consultants)

## CROSS SELECTION

## CHELSEA P.A. & MARKETING

CO-ORDINATOR

£14,000 plus major bonus incentive scheme.

Suit lively, confident, articulate P.A. who thinks he/she is good at marketing given the chance. International sales and licensing of architectural products. - Very good P.A. background needed but ambition & enthusiasm paramount.

Send C.V. to John Stephenson (M.D.) Ceramadek Ltd, Chelsea Chambers, 262A Fulham Road, London SW10.

## SPRING INTO FASHION - W1

££17,000 + Bonus & Discounts

With Spring around the corner it couldn't be a more exciting time to join a household name in retail where the energy and enthusiasm derived from their success is channelled through to the most senior levels. For a PA the pace is fast and demanding but no surprise if you've been used to similar environments. Skills must be 100/60 wpm.

Please call Lisa Bellow on 01-491-1866.

## La Crème

LA CRÈME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Before we match you to a job, we consider your background.

Knowing a little about your past can help a lot when planning your future. That's why our staff are trained to find out your likes and dislikes. Your hopes and fears. And what we ask of every applicant, male or female, we also ask of our clients.

That way we can team you up with the perfect employer. Should you need to add more strings to your bow, there's Audition. A unique system that helps to develop your keyboard skills and cross trains you onto other software packages.

It also helps to keep you ahead of the game. And as in front of the competition.



BROOK STREET

Basingstoke (0256) 47242 Capital (01-323) 3818 Birmingham Central (021) 633 3888 Manchester (061) 228 6168

## FOURTH SECRETARIAL

## Job Fair

THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST

NOON TIL 8.00PM

WALDORF HOTEL, ALDWYCH

Come and interview with many leading London firms anxious to recruit secretaries, typists, and WP operators. After comparing the large variety of jobs on offer, decide which companies you'd like to visit, then line up second interviews on the spot. No fuss, no pressure, no wasted time. Salaries range from £10-14,000; college leavers welcome; bring lots of CVs. See you there! If you have any questions, call Jo Travers or Charlotte Woodward on: 01-408 0424

RTZ

Tate

70-71 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1Y 9DE

## Executive Suite

A professional, organised and motivated individual is currently sought by our client, a prestigious and highly-established City concern. As you assist the Chief Executive and his PA you will enjoy organisational challenge and the opportunity to display your effective communication skills. An involved role needing tact and diplomacy as key areas of responsibility are client liaison and administration as well as effective secretarial support. Previous senior-level experience gained in a professional environment desirable. First-class skills (90/60) requested. Age 30-40 with a flexible manner? Salary £16,000. Call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

## SECRETARY

to Special Appeals Manager

Up to £9,280 (Under Review) Central London

- The National Trust is Europe's leading conservation charity. Fund-raising plays a crucial role in the Trust's work and a staff of professionals is employed to undertake this task.
- One of these managers who has responsibility for a variety of appeals, as well as other aspects of public affairs work, is now looking for an enthusiastic secretary to assist her with the heavy administrative load involved.
- As well as the usual secretarial duties, you'll maintain records of donors and deal with telephone calls from members of the public. You will also carry out an exceptionally wide range of tasks, including helping with arrangements for the Trust's Centenary in 1995 and liaising with the Director General's and Chairman's offices on VIP visits and other matters.
- Clearly this is a very responsible role, one which calls for a high level of self-motivation, initiative and the ability to work under pressure.
- You will also need excellent communicative and organisational skills along with good typing and shorthand. The job would especially appeal to a graduate or 'A' level qualified individual with one to two years' office experience who is looking to make a career in Fundraising.
- In addition to a competitive salary and benefits package (reviewed in April), you'll also enjoy the friendly atmosphere of our attractive office building overlooking St. James' Park.
- Please write with full career details or telephone for further information to: Martine Poole, Personnel Assistant, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS. Tel: 01-222 9251.



## THE NATIONAL TRUST

We are a young and rapidly growing publishing company, based in north Oxford, and specialising in the distribution of psychometric tests.

OXFORD PSYCHOLOGISTS PRESS

P.A. to the Chairman circa £16k

An efficient and reliable P.A. with excellent written language and keyboard skills is required to keep the business on track and running smoothly.

Aged 30-50 and educated to 'A' level or higher standard, you will have proven experience in a senior secretarial role and of supervising and organising a busy office. As you will be the central contact with clients you should have the ability to communicate diplomatically with people at all levels both internally and externally. A cheerful personality is necessary for this challenging and varied position with the ability to keep calm under pressure and become involved in this energetic and fast growing team. Experience with a variety of computer software would be an advantage.

Please write with full c.v. to: Betsy Kendall, Oxford Psychologists Press Limited, Lambourne House, 311-321 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7JH.

## Across the Seine...

Fabulous opening for a gregarious, articulate self-starter to join the busy, high-profile Impressionist department of this world-famous Auction House. Working closely with two Directors - both charming, both with exceedingly high standards - your role will include lots of client contact and liaison with VIPs, dealers as well as fielding enquiries from the Press. Good organisational ability; sound secretarial skills (to include shorthand) and a confident, "go-getting" approach essential. Conversational French very useful. Salary to £13,200. If you're 22+ and eager to learn as much as possible about the art world, call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

## Continued from page 21 CREATIVE MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

Professional/learned society requires Meetings Organizer to head department responsible for arrangement of its home and overseas conferences. Experience of all aspects of conference organization essential. Normal working hours are 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.; L/Vs, 25 days holiday; plus other benefits after period of satisfactory service; salary negotiable around £17,000. Written applications, marked 'Private', to: Michael Jones, Secretary, IMM, 44 Portland Place, London W1N 4BL.

## ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES

£30,000 + P.A. Magazines International, publishers of leading news stand magazines, Scott International, Shimmer and Homefinder are currently looking for other experienced Advertising Sales Executives or young go-ahead people who want to make a start in the advertising sales business. We are part of a public Company and have a very ambitious year ahead, during which we will launch a number of new titles. Our standards for new entrants are high, so you must be articulate and well educated, most important of all you must be full of determination to succeed within a fast moving highly professional young Company, and if you have advertising sales experience and can demonstrate a successful track record we will offer you a package and career opportunity you can't refuse. Arrange an immediate interview, call Robert Jordan or Tony Robinson on 01 567 2822.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

for busy translation agency. Preferably professional Translator with good commercial experience in similar environment. Knowledge of computer systems and marketing essential. Salary £12,000 pa + 2% commission on sales currently £250K pa. Please send CV and see to Dr Cooke, Managing Director, Surrey Language Centre, 39 West Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7DR.

## TOP QUALITY SALES EXECUTIVE/ADVERTISING MANAGER REQUIRED

MSM International Ltd, a fast growing publishing and design company requires two high quality Sales Executives with a view to one becoming Advertising Manager within the next few months. We have two monthly titles in the financial field and we also act as contract publishers on behalf of other established publishing houses and exhibition organisers. We are seeking two highly motivated and keen self-starters who can tackle this demanding challenge. Super salary and commission available for both positions. Write with a full CV to David Wilson, Publishing Director, MSM International Ltd, Thomas House, 16 Park Street, London EC1 9ER, or telephone 01-378-7131 now to arrange an appointment.

## MANPOWER

## CREATIVE PA'S

To £15,000

Work with the top echelons of this international advertising company in NW1, and be involved with everything the MD and the Chairman are, from organising client meetings and events to typing confidential correspondence. Your flexibility and quick thinking are as valued as are your excellent secretarial skills including shorthand and strong WP experience.

Private health and product discounts are some of the superb benefits. Age 22 and enjoy responsibility with variety? Call Eileen Griffin 01-388 8686 Temporary and Permanent. Manpower makes the difference.

## THE PURCELL SCHOOL



## DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

to lead its exciting bursaries and capital projects fund-raising programme

You will be required to demonstrate previous success in this field, preferably in the world of Music and the Arts. You will be responsible on an operational basis to the Headmaster and Bursar and on a strategic level, to the School's Development Committee. This is a part-time or full-time post. Flexible hours and remuneration by agreement.

Letter of application and c.v. to: The Headmaster, The Purcell School, Mount Park Road, Harrow on the Hill, Middlessex HA1 3JS.

German National with fluent English and wide publishing/PR/media experience seeks move to the UK and an interesting challenging job. Educated to Higher Degree level, and skilled in all aspects of publishing. Reply to BOX M42.

## A SPECIAL TELESales OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking a sales product to sell. We will provide all the necessary training and support. We will also provide all the necessary equipment and materials. We will also provide all the necessary financial support. We will also provide all the necessary legal support. We will also provide all the necessary administrative support. We will also provide all the necessary technical support. We will also provide all the necessary marketing support. We will also provide all the necessary sales support. We will also provide all the necessary customer support. We will also provide all the necessary after-sales support. We will also provide all the necessary training support. We will also provide all the necessary development support. We will also provide all the necessary research support. We will also provide all the necessary analysis support. We will also provide all the necessary evaluation support. We will also provide all the necessary implementation support. 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The MD of this successful W1 firm is looking for a capable dedicated PA Secretary to assist him in his demanding and exciting role. If you have a keen desire to learn and are looking for career prospects, plus have good shorthand and WP skills, call Diane Zagby on 01-734 0911.

It's one thing to match your skills with a job vacancy. It's quite another to find an environment that's right for your career objectives and your personality.  
What makes Drake different is that we DO BOTH.  
We spend the time with you to find a position that's tailor-made - where you will use your potential to the fullest AND where you will be appreciated.  
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A fantastic opp for a career minded PA to join this top merchant bank. Assisting two MDs in equities, you will enjoy total involvement as you play a key role in the smooth running of the division where confidence is the key. Your 5-6 skills coupled with your banking exp will ensure your success.  
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Prestige, involvement, superb perks. Utilise your executive/WP skills in a role that demands commitment yet is supremely fulfilling. Assist the Senior Partner of this firm of Chartered Accountants on a 1-1 basis. Liaise with renowned clients and organise distinguished social occasions.  
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The combination of a lifetime. Join this well known TV station and get involved in a busy and varied role. You'll be encouraged to organise training courses, set up interviews and help with recruitment activities. So if you've got 90/50 skills this could be your ideal role.  
Please telephone 248 3744  
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### WHEELER DEALER £15k

A born organiser is needed by this charming managing director. Become totally involved with his stocks and shares, arrange executive functions and liaise at all levels. Reap the rewards for your enthusiasm within this successful and trendy company. 80/50 skills needed.  
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### SECRETARY Salary £12,800 p.a.

We are the world's largest non-governmental organisation working in the field of planned parenthood and related health services, and are seeking a Secretary to join our Management Systems and Support team who are responsible for computerisation and information systems.

Tasks include normal secretarial duties, maintaining departmental computer databases, the department's library and assisting in the preparation of training materials.

Applicants should be educated to 'O' level standard to include English Language together with secretarial training to RSA Stage 3 or equivalent - Wordprocessing skills (preferably Wordperfect) are essential together with data-entry experience, knowledge of spreadsheets or databases would be an advantage.

Additional training will be provided where required and this challenging post will ensure that IT skills are maintained and developed. A minimum of two years' similar experience is required.

This is a two year fixed term contract, offering an annual salary of £12,800 plus fringe benefits. We are based in pleasant non-smoking offices in Regent's Park.

Please telephone for application and further details on 01-486 0741 ext. 7943 or send CV, to Personnel Dept., IPPF, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS. In view of the large response anticipated, only shortlisted applications will be acknowledged.

Closing date: 2nd March, 1990.



IPPF is an Equal Opportunities Employer

### PERSONNEL SECRETARIES

£14,000-£15,000

The City

We are an international and progressive firm of solicitors based in beautiful offices between the Barbican and St. Pauls. We are now seeking to recruit two secretaries for our recently expanded Personnel Department.

The ideal candidates will probably be in their 20's, experienced in the full range of secretarial and administrative duties and with a keen interest in and knowledge of WP/PC systems. We need fast, accurate typing as the secretaries will be required to undertake a high volume of WP work, flexibility regarding hours and the ability to manage a number of tasks simultaneously.

Both positions offer variety, involvement and responsibility and may suit excellent second jobbers. Non smokers essential. Will applicants please send a curriculum vitae with supporting letter to Margaret Joyce (Miss), Secretarial Services Manager.

**THEODORE GODDARD**

150 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4EJ.

### PA Partnership £18,000 package

The high-profile Chairman of a City merchant bank requires an experienced Senior PA to join his accomplished team.

Variety is the key word of this important appointment and the only thing that won't feature is boredom! You will share the running of his hectic office with one other PA: handling correspondence and organising his personal life one day, liaising with senior executives the next. Committed, confident and cool under pressure, you will be educated to A-level standard and in your mid-20s. Excellent audio/WP skills are essential. Shorthand useful.

If you want more than the 9-5 routine please call Catherine Ferguson on 01 588 3535.

**Crone Corkill**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### RECRUITMENT SECRETARY

Young, dynamic Fashion Executive Recruitment M.D. desperately needs first-class secretary to assist in all aspects of the business. You will need to be fast and accurate on the Word Processor and be able to juggle at least three tasks at once at any one time.

As you will be the first person the Clients and candidates see, excellent presentation and a ready smile is imperative. Also, if you want to progress and take on extra responsibility, there are plenty of promotion prospects for a young, enthusiastic PA.

This position really has enormous potential if you want to be 'more than just a secretary'. Salary is negotiable. Based in super offices near Regent Street, W1. Call Lynda Cohen on 01-636 5701 if you would like to hear more about the job.

### WANTED

**\$25,000 pa AAE REWARD**

The hunt is on in our Group of companies for a rather sought-after individual. Maybe it's you? We certainly believe this role is a "steal" for the right person. Quite simply, we need a traditional Audio/WP Secretary with good keyboard skills, client-orientated personal presentation and a terrific telephone manner. In return, you'll be part of a prestigious consultancy team buying and selling businesses for clients. The action all takes place at our beautiful Charing Cross office and, what's more, we'll even pay you in Sterling! That's up to £16,000 pa. We think you'll agree, just rewards for your talents.

Please call Ros Preskett on 01-491 1868.

### PARTNERS P.A.

Required to run young trendy Chartered Accountants office in Bloomsbury Square. Strong admin background with good secretarial skills (80-90%) preferably with Word Perfect experience. A confident telephone manner and stable track record at senior level essential. Salary £16,000. Please fax C.V. 01 405 9468. No agencies please.

### G'day! to £18,500

Teamy, on the ball and willing to help out in all aspects of office life?

Australian Investment firm in EC3 is looking for a bright 20-26 year old to support their busy executive team.

If you enjoy working to deadlines and using your admin skills, audio and WP, call Sabrina Stewart now on

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## SECRETARY TO MD

c.£15,000 WC2

Mobil Shipping Company Limited is responsible for all this major international oil company's fleet outside the U.S.

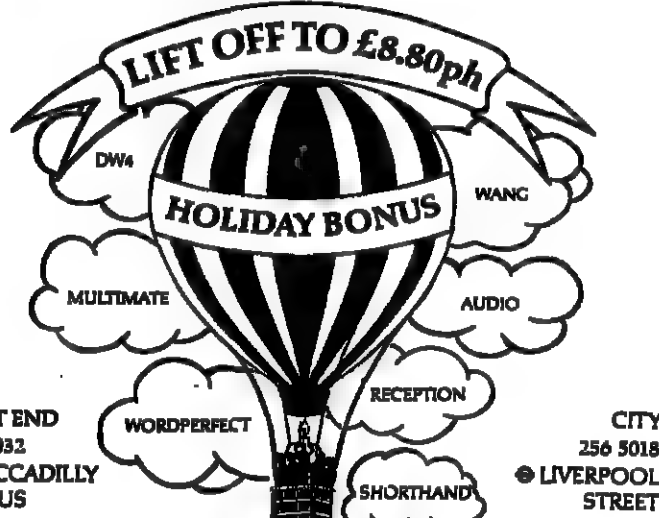
You will provide full secretarial and administrative support to the Managing Director and the Supervisor of Industrial and Employee Relations for shore-based employees. Your responsibilities will include the administration of temporary staff and office facilities administration.

This challenging role demands at least 8 years' secretarial experience, including WP and administration. Mature (27+), numerate and self-motivated, you should have good educational qualifications, ideally to 'A' level standard.

In addition to a salary of c.£15,000 we offer an attractive range of large company benefits.

Please write with full cv to: Frank Ward, Employee Relations, Mobil Shipping Company Limited, Mobil Court, 3 Clements Inn, London WC2A 2EB.

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**PA to CHIEF EXEC**  
£15,000  
High profile position assisting this dynamic executive to head up one of the world's largest publishing houses. Based at their plush West End office, you will liaise at the highest level, co-ordinate meetings, organise travel arrangements and provide full secretarial support. S/H essential.  
Call Glynn Ranger

**SEC to MD**  
£13,000  
Benefits include BUPA, Pension, Bonus & IFSTL. As indispensable assistant to this go-ahead, charming executive you will arrange his hectic schedule, organise in-house conferences and liaise with the company's offices in the Far East and USA. S/H essential.  
Call Glynn Ranger

**SEC to MD**  
£14,000  
Benefits include BUPA, Pension, Bonus & IFSTL. Combine the security and benefits of a permanent job and the variety & flexibility of temp work within this large international company at their West End Office. Your role will be to provide backup to the executive and become involved in interesting projects. S/H essential.  
Call Glynn Ranger

The Specialist Recruitment Consultancy for Secretaries!  
Our Fax No for CV's is 01-409 2555  
70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St. end) 01-491 0383

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With fast shorthand - we have a variety of top assignments offering excellent rates plus benefits that include free WP training, skill development and holiday pay.

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**IF PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT.....**  
£12-13,000

What an incredible Company...incredible Clients...incredible people. They are ranked in the top 10 PR companies and they've only been going 5 years...they're going in one direction and that's...UP! The average age of the whole company (including Management) is only 30! You've got to be flexible, fast-moving and driven if you have about a year's experience, 50 typing and want to get in on one of the greatest PR acts of this century - and you think people are important too, call us immediately.

30 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-925 0640

### EMBASSY OF JAPAN, W1

requires  
**SECRETARY**

Applicants should have excellent typing skills and be able to draught correspondence on own initiative. Salary according to qualifications and experience.  
Tel: 01-465 6500.

### FINANCE £17,000

An international financial institution is looking for a PA/Sec to work for its Financial Controller.

You should have excellent sec skills, be numerate, enjoy computers, be well presented and spoken and be used to using your initiative and intelligence.

This is a unique opportunity for someone who wants autonomy and responsibility. Variety is the key - organising conferences to complicated travel itineraries.

Age: 24 - 28  
Skills: 80/50

**HANOVER SQUARE**

01-408 1461

ANGELA MONTGOMERY

### CONFIDENT EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

able to work under pressure required by small City-based consultancy to start 1 March. Knowledge of FW2 WP highly desirable. £13,500 pa.

Phone (01) 588 9096.

No Agencies.

**WEST END ART GALLERY**

requires presentable 17-18 years old office junior. Typing & shorthand essential to assist P.A. to Director

Tel: Julia

01-495 4747

### Business-like at Board Level Salary to £19,500

Working on one of the most exciting property developments in London, this director has an incredible capacity for hard work - and wants a secretary to match! Firstly, your superlative shorthand and typing skills will ensure you turn out immaculate presentations. Then use your good administration and organisational ability, (a junior secretary helps with the filing and copying). And lastly there's the phone, lots of calls related to advertising, media and PR. You will be quick-minded, able to juggle with problems, willing to take decisions and not a clock-watcher. Location: SW1. You will be 27-35, with 120wpm shorthand and 75wpm on WP. Talk to Helen Close today on 01-6373303.

LOVE + TATE Appointments

### Personal Assistant SE6 c £18,000

Do you want a job requiring commitment and a high energy level on your doorstep? The newly appointed senior executive of a well known international company needs a first-class PA to run his office.

Your experience of working at executive level will give you the confidence to handle worldwide travel arrangements, organise social functions and liaise with European and US offices - all vital features of this challenging post. If you are 28-40 with skills of 100+/60/WP, have a European language and are educated to 'A' level standard, please call Virginia Wancho on 01 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### SECRETARIES

Starting Salary:  
c £16,000 aae

We require two senior secretaries/PAs to fill interesting and varied roles at Board Level for Group Head Office in Central London.

Candidates should be aged 25-50 and have the ability and experience to take responsibility for various projects. In addition, adequate shorthand and typing skills are required.

Applicants should apply in own handwriting and forward full CV to Box No. M31.

### FULHAM

c.£15,000

Wonderful opportunity for secretary keen to do more than just type. Involvement in all aspects of small co. Flexibility, common sense and lots of energy are the main requirements. (22-26).

01-730 5148

### MAYFAIR

c.£14,000 NEG

Marketing Director of well known co. requires PA/Sec with good all round secretarial and organisation skills. Involvement with Public Relations and lots of client contact. (24-30)

(Rec. Con.)

**JAYGAR**

### The Royal Masonic Hospital MEDICAL SECRETARY

Full-time Medical Secretary required. Must have good shorthand and typing skills and be used to working on their own initiative. An AMSPAR qualification is preferable. Hours of work are 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Thursday and 9 am to 4.45 pm on Friday. Salary is negotiable according to age and experience. Pleasant working conditions and a staff discount are provided plus 25 days holiday per annum. Please send CV to Personnel Department, The Royal Masonic Hospital, Rectory Park, London W11 0TN. Tel: 743 4611. Extinction 30/8.

### Chairman's Business £16,000 West End

One of the most exciting secretarial jobs currently going in London. The highly energetic founder of this 200-strong corporate design company requires a secretary to look after his business interests. You will be part of a team that has proved fun and successful in the past. It's hectic but disciplined, about 50% secretarial (mostly 10/70 plus W.P.) the rest the usual admin, but with organising business lunches (often in-house) and social functions. So you need natural poise, be well spoken and turned out with plenty of common sense. Aged 25+, mature but enthusiastic too. Nice office - after all the business is design. Don't hang about. Ring NOW!

### ALSO

If you live in South West London and have medical sec experience, use it to the full at this prestigious private hospital in return for an excellent salary, free lunches and other generous benefits.

**MARY OVERTON**  
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### JOB OF THE MONTH

**INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY** ..... £18,000  
An exciting new position in a well established international company. Requirements are excellent Dutch/French/German and PA experience in return you will be working alongside a charming boss with travel opportunities and plenty of client liaison.

**MAKE IT IN MARKETING** ..... £15,000  
If you can boast excellent French and Spanish with sound secretarial experience read on! This expanding marketing company seek a flexible 'all rounder' with flair and initiative to become fully involved in busy marketing environment. Excellent prospects.

493 6446 929 5373

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### KNIGHTSBRIDGE c £15,000

Well educated, numerate, lively, young secretary with ability to communicate at all levels to join Advisors of Bermuda based Fund Management Group.

Varied all round responsibilities.

Contact: Louise Tams

Telephone: 01 823 9505

### CHAMPAGNE - £11,000 - MAYFAIR

Experienced, well-presented Receptionist/Secretary required with accurate typing and excellent telephone manner. One will provide back up to the MD and employ lots of client contact working with this leading champagne house. Conversational French very useful. Ring Carolyn or Katie

RODGERS & GILLESPIE

01-409 0744

9 Blandford Street, New Bond Street, London W1Y 9LE

Recruitment Consultants

### UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY IN W8

Fantastic opportunity for a people orientated secretary with good telephone manner (no shorthand) to get fully involved in running the college office in a lively and informal tutorial college. School experience useful but not essential. Salary a.s.e. 6 weeks holiday.

Please send CV to Mrs Jenny Emery, 17 Old Court Place, London W8 4PL.







## 6. PANDERING TO THE GREAT DICTATOR.

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP WHEN I FOUND THE GREAT DICTATOR'S DOOR CLOSED. AT 10.15AM AN URGENT HISsing CAME FROM INSIDE HIS OFFICE "PSSST. PSSST. I'VE OVERDONE THE SUN-LAMP - AND I'M IN A MEETING IN THREE MINUTES."

OVERNIGHT THE WHITES OF HIS EYES HAD REACHED FROM EAR TO EAR, THE REST OF HIS FACE WAS THE COLOUR OF TOMATO PUREE. STIFLING THE GIGGLES I REACHED FOR MY BLUSHER AND FOUNDATION. AFTER A QUICK FACIAL I SENT TGD PACKING.

A WEEK LATER TGD WAS BACK TO HIS PASTY-FACED SELF. AN ANONYMOUS CARD APPEARED ON THE STAFF NOTICE BOARD WITH "SUNLAMP FOR SALE." I TURNED TO ELIZABETH HUNT FOR THE LATEST JOBS THINKING A SMOOTH RELATIONSHIP IS ALWAYS BASED ON A FIRM FOUNDATION.

**MARKETING & PR. £16K**  
COMBINE THE TWO AS PA TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THIS FAST EXPANDING COMPANY. THEY ORGANISE CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS WORLDWIDE. THIS POSITION INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF CLIENT CONTACT AND NEEDS GOOD ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY. SUPERB OFFICES. 90/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-240 3511.

**NO SHORTHAND! TO £17K**  
SHORTHAND NOT NEEDED AS PA TO THE SENIOR PARTNER OF THIS PRESTIGIOUS W1 COMPANY. LIAISE WITH HEADS OF INDUSTRY, CELEBRITIES AND ROYALTY. SET UP VIP LUNCHES AND ARRANGE SPEAKERS. YOU SHOULD HAVE A CALM UNFLAPPABLE MANNER AND 70WPM AUDIO ABILITY. TEL: 01-408 0247.

**A NEW CHANNEL TO £14.5K**  
CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE WORLD OF TELEVISION THIS WELL KNOWN COMPANY SEEKS A SECRETARY TO THEIR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMME PLANNING. SET UP CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS. HANDLE RESEARCH PROJECTS AND LIAISE WITH INDUSTRY PERSONNEL AT ALL LEVELS. 90/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-240 3511.

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THE WELL KNOWN BODY INVOLVED IN MEDICAL RESEARCH SEEKS A PA TO THEIR CHIEF MEDICAL ADVISOR. AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS POSITION WILL BE THE EFFICIENT RUNNING OF A BUSY OFFICE AND LIAISON WITH VIPS AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 90/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-408 0247.

**PA/ADMINISTRATOR TO £18K**  
RUN THE SHOW WHEN YOU JOIN THIS DYNAMIC COMPANY INVOLVED IN THE IMPORT/EXPORT OF A PREMIER BEER. THEY ARE ALSO ABOUT TO HANDLE THE PROMOTION OF A RANGE OF FASHION ACCESSORIES. AND IT IS ENVISAGED YOU'LL ATTEND FASHION SHOWS AND PROMOTIONS. 90/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-240 3511.

**HOTEL CAREER. £15K + BONUS**  
THE LUXURY 5 STAR HOTEL SEES A PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY. AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ALL ASPECTS OF THE HOTEL BUSINESS. YOU'LL ATTEND PR AND SALES. MANAGING EVENTS AND HELP SET UP PHOTO AND FILM SHOTS. 90/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-408 0247.

Elizabeth Hunt  
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## The Ultimate in Publishing College Leaver

Our client, a world-renowned Mayfair Publishing house, seeks a poised, well-presented College Leaver for a challenging first role. Working with their immensely successful Advertising Director and his friendly team, you will have your own office in this busy environment. Your responsibilities will include arranging venues for presentations, sending out press packs, handling enquiries and greeting VIP visitors. Besides general secretarial back-up, you will also organise admin procedures so lots of initiative and enthusiasm is essential. Good skills (90/50) requested. Salary £10,500. For further details call 01-499 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

(University of London)

## SECRETARY/DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Applications are invited for this new and challenging post which involves contact with medicine, London University and European cancer societies.

The successful applicant will also be involved with a new medical publishing initiative in the cancer field.

Good word processing skills and a pleasant telephone manner are desirable. Training on computer systems will be available if required. Salary in the range of £12,500.

Application forms can be obtained from the Federation Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EL. Telephone 01-631 6222 Ext. 124

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No hassles. No let-downs. Just plain, simple high-grade tempering. A tasteful package of top jobs, elite rates and thoroughly professional service. If you have sound skills and experience, you should be talking to The Work Shop. Telephone 01-409 1232.

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£12,000 + perks  
International Perfume and Cosmetics House in the West End needs a capable Secretary to assist their MD. You will organise functions, lunches, presentations to clients and conferences and liaise with their management staff in the UK and Paris. Beautiful office, friendly team, free goods quarterly. Salary: 90/50. Age: 22-30. Phone Jenny at 37 Golden Square on 257 7788

ANGELA MORTIMER

## No Shorthand £17,000

We have a rare opportunity for an Audio Secretary to work for the Finance Director of a well-known Consumer Product Company in the West End. Plenty of scope for involvement at top level in an exciting international environment. Age about 30.

01-629 9323

## Whack! School Sec £12,500

Well organised and calm secretary needed to work for Deputy Bursar and Deputy Headmaster of prominent West London Independent School. This important role requires excellent organisational skills as you co-ordinate non-teaching staff, office administration and school schedules. Lovely working atmosphere and excellent facilities, free lunch, 4 wks + holidays. Skills: SH or Audio/50/WP. Age 25-45.

Please Call Samantha Brander on 01 437 6892.

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See assignments through from start to finish as a delightful director and his assistant at a prestigious firm dealing in the high flying world of mergers and acquisitions. Prepare reports and company information. Alter your boss's calls and meet his clients. Stunning offices near Liverpool Street and excellent rewards if you show interest and prove to be a willing and flexible member of this small team. Age 20-30. SH/80/50.

Please call Elizabeth Williams on 01 256 5018.

HOBSTONES

## Terra Nova Insurance

## Secretary to the Director of Non-Marine Underwriting

Terra Nova is a specialist company transacting insurance and reinsurance business in the London market and is a leader in this field.

Candidates should be aged 23+, well educated with secretarial skills of 100/60, and have experience of DW4 WP. They should also demonstrate a flexible approach, being prepared to undertake a variety of tasks and ensure the efficient day to day running of an active underwriting department.

The successful applicant will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package.

Please write enclosing your cv to: Mrs Barbara Hoy, Personnel Officer, Terra Nova Insurance Co. Ltd.

Terra Nova House  
41-42 Mincing Lane  
London EC3R 1SP

## SHORTHAND

'Shorthand' gaseped Fiona, 'One doesn't need it these days, does one?'

'I wouldn't know....' smiled Camilla, as she contemplated just which Fine-Art House she fancied working for.

With 80 words per minute shorthand and immaculate presentation, one has a choice in the Art-World, doesn't one?

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Fascinating career opportunity for a strong, motivated individual with this progressive, expanding W1 Consultancy. Working alongside the Marketing Director you can expect total involvement as Marketing Assistant. The parameters of the position are broad as you will be involved in all aspects: think-up new marketing strategies and tactics; organise and execute mailshots to new business prospects; maximise new leads and arrange appointments etc. Confident communication skills essential. Typing 50 wpm. Age 24-38 with previous database management experience? Salary £14,000. Make your mark and call us today 01-493 0713.

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We are a busy, friendly firm of Consulting Engineers, about 130 strong based near Farmington Underground Station. We need an able person to act as the senior partner's personal assistant. This role is vital to the smooth running of the practice. Excellent secretarial and administrative skills are essential and applicants must be self-motivated and be able to respond quickly, intelligently and accurately to a wide range of demands.

Non smoker. 4 weeks leave and free lunches three times a week. Salary negotiable + bonus B.A.A. Please write enclosing brief cv to:

Caroline Platt  
Allen Butler & Associates  
Consulting Civil & Structural Engineers  
14-16 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6DR  
(No Agencies)

## Overlooking Regent's Park...

On-the-ball School/College Leaver sought for a small, friendly company in beautiful offices overlooking Regent's Park. An involving role with plenty of scope for future development. Besides general secretarial duties you will help organise events such as lectures and committee meetings, monitor stationary supplies, handle mail and assist with enquiries. (no good telephone manner essential) Sound typing 35 wpm requested. Age 17-22. A flexible, enthusiastic manner required for this excellent first job. Lovely, friendly environment. Salary £10,500 core + 5 weeks holiday. Call us today on 01-493 0713.

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## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

## For rent, at a price

Rental values have been rising fast in the past six months, notably in the Far East and Europe, the consultant Richard Ellis reports in a new survey on world rental levels.

Tokyo is leading the way, with an increase of more than 20 per cent in the past six months, the highest increase since 1986-87, bringing rents on new prime accommodation to a record £117 a sq ft, way ahead of any other centre.

In cost, London follows Tokyo at £65-70 a sq ft, though top rental levels and occupation costs in the City and West End have stabilized in recent months. Richard Ellis World Rentals expects an increase in total costs in London in April when the rating revaluation and the Uniform Business Rate come into effect.

For Britain, there are modest increases - from £15 to £16 a sq ft in Manchester and from £15 to £16.50 a sq ft in Glasgow.

In the Far East, Singapore has shown a sharp rental increase, up

'One square foot of space could cost you £117 in Tokyo as it leads a global rise

by nearly 30 per cent to £27 a sq ft, and following falls in the mid-1980s the centre is now in a strong up-cycle.

There has been rapid growth, too, in certain European centres. In Lisbon, rental levels are up by nearly 30 per cent to £24 a sq ft, and in Barcelona up by 17 per cent to nearly £24 a sq ft, while Madrid has shown a small increase to a present level of more than £32 a sq ft.

Rentals have continued to grow in Australia, but at a more modest rate, with levels at nearly £28 a sq ft in Sydney (up 8 per cent) and virtually unchanged at £19 a sq ft in Melbourne. Only in the United States has there been little growth.

Richard Ellis World Rentals says that prime yields in many of the centres have continued to fall during the last half of 1989, reflecting, according to Iain Reid,

of Richard Ellis, "the increasing investor interest and greater confidence in the world property markets".

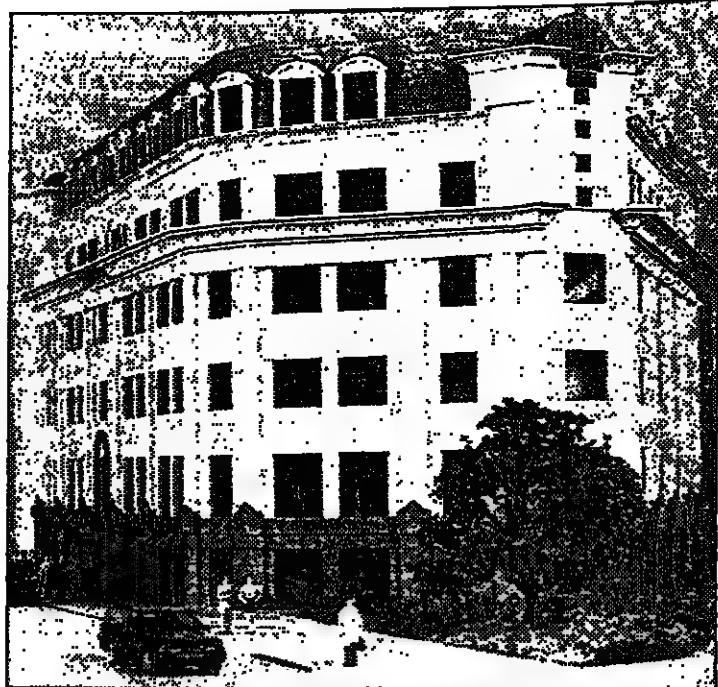
There could be no better example of this than the launching last week by Jones Lang Wootton, the international property firm, and the Prudential Insurance Company of America, of a \$2 billion (about £1.2 billion) global property investment programme on behalf of a number of leading institutional investors from around the world.

The Prudential Global Real Estate Investment Programme, the first undertaking of such size and scope, is designed to give institutional investors an opportunity to acquire commercial property investments spread among such cities as Frankfurt, London, Paris, Sydney and Toronto, as well as the American cities of Boston,

Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington.

In a joint statement, Robert E. Riley, chairman of the Prudential Realty Group, and Keith Douglas-Mann, chairman of Jones Lang Wootton, explained: "We believe that a global approach to property investing offers certain distinct advantages over single-country portfolios. First, a much wider selection of prime properties is available, and second, since property cycles do not follow the same pattern in every country, a global portfolio affords greater diversification and the prospect of diminished overall risk."

A total of \$2 billion has been committed to the programme by eight institutional investors, including the Prudential Insurance Company of America, Nationale-Nederlanden NV, Australian Mutual Provident Society, Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GSIC), and SPP, Sweden. Within the next year, additional investors are expected to increase the total capital commitments to \$3 billion.



Work has begun on MEPC's 44,000 sq ft, seven-storey office and retail development (above) at Mansion House tube station in the City. The development is being carried out jointly by MEPC Developments and London Underground. The £13 million construction is by Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons. Due for completion in autumn 1991, the scheme replaces existing Victorian and 1960s office buildings. It involves rebuilding and enlarging the underground ticket hall, and the station will be closed until February 1991.

## IN THE MARKET

## Music hall site plan

■ Inmy Merchant Developers has announced plans for the £90 million development of its three-acre site by Islington Green, north London. Previously a timber yard, it was earlier the site of Collins Music Hall, London's oldest.

The proposed mixed-use scheme will include more than 175,000 sq ft of offices, workshop/studios, homes, and an open-air "cultural entertainment" area surrounded by shops, cafes and restaurants. The overall design, by Sheppard Robson, follows a consultation exercise with the public. The letting agent is Healey & Baker.

■ The Ove Arup Partnership, consulting engineers and architects, has taken a pre-let of the whole of Carlow House, Faithwood Investment's new office refurbishment scheme at Carlow Street, Camden, north London. Faithwood has achieved a rent of £1.38 million (more than £30 a sq ft overall) for the 45,000 sq ft development, which was formerly a British Rail training centre.

■ Glasgow & Oriental Developments has signed a £70 million loan facility with a syndicate of international banks to develop the Ercottie, the last main area in Glasgow's city centre to be developed. The facility, marking the first phase of a £200 million project, was arranged by the Mitsubishi Bank, fully underwritten by it and the Clydesdale Bank, and it is thought to represent the biggest property investment made by Japanese companies outside London.

## The built-in dangers of 1992

British construction firms are in danger of losing valuable contracts to Continental competitors after 1992 because they do not appreciate the significance of the single European market, a survey of the UK construction sector has revealed.

The survey was carried out by the newly formed Property & Construction group at Ernst & Young, international business and financial advisers. Eugene Ban-

non, a partner in the firm, said the findings suggested that leading UK construction companies were not prepared or eager to face the impact of the inevitable changes that 1992 would herald.

"Certainly it will be many years

before harmonization and standardization of processes and product specification are achieved," he said. "But the European construction companies most likely to win out will be those who have prepared their organizations and are

able to meet the new EC specifications. This will require increased research and development expenditure."

The survey found that the only issue of which more than half the firms was aware (54 per cent) was

in relation to the public works directive. Fewer than 40 per cent of firms were familiar with the supplies directive, construction products directive or plans to harmonize taxes. Almost 60 per cent of the firms believed the

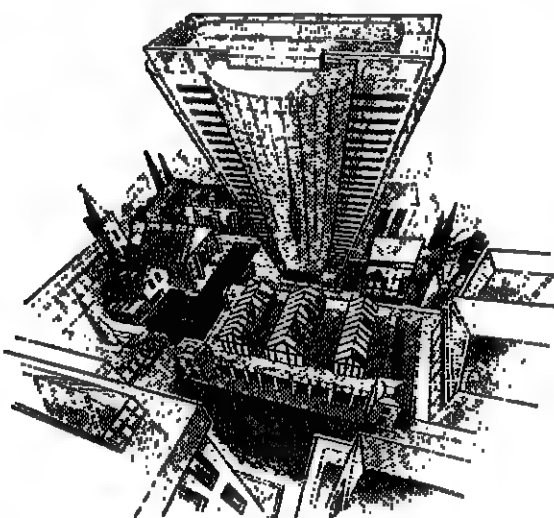
future of their business was on a broad international basis, but only half said the single European market would provide more opportunities. Most of those who considered the single market a threat were taking extra steps to monitor the position of foreign competitors awarded contracts in their UK markets, but only one claimed to have established a specific unit to monitor EC legislation.

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## SQUASH RACKETS

Unfancied  
Colets  
are worthy  
of title

By Colin McQuillan

A narrow victory for Colets, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, in the first season of the SRA Women's Superleague, secured by two points with a third-string win by Cassandra Jackman at Nottingham on Monday evening, is suitable justification for an enterprise not totally supported by all in the sport at the start.

Colets take their name from the club which agreed to host them only because David Last, the team backer, is a valued member there. They are the only unsponsored squad in the league and they have survived the season on gate takings and some local commercial support.

"We have not made a profit from the season but the relatively small shortfall I have underwritten is small price to pay for the pleasure the team has brought to me and the club," Last said.

Fully sponsored by Reebok, Nottingham secured second place by beating Colets on the night with comprehensive wins at the top of the order. Yellow Pages Caversham finished third while, in London, UTC Cannons defeated HMS Courland 2-1 to finish fourth.

Managed by Last's wife, Penny, and coached by Dardir El Bakary, Colets were hardly favourites at the start of a season in which Michelle Martin, Alison Cummings and Jackman faced considerably weightier opposition.

At Nottingham, Lisa Ople, the world No. 2, was backed by Danielle Brady, the world No. 4 — soon replaced by Sharon Bradey after sponsorship clashes — and Fiona Geaves, the world No. 10.

Caversham were led by Martine Le Moignan, the world champion, Cannons by Lucy Soutter, the British champion, and Courland by Liz Irving, the world No. 5.

The success of Jackman, aged 17 and rated the best junior in the world, has certainly been a positive feature of the Superleague. On the down side there were the half-dozen promising juniors who trailed the circuit as reserves without success.

Of great value in the men's national squash league has been the emergence of a depth of young, battle-hardened talent into the world game.

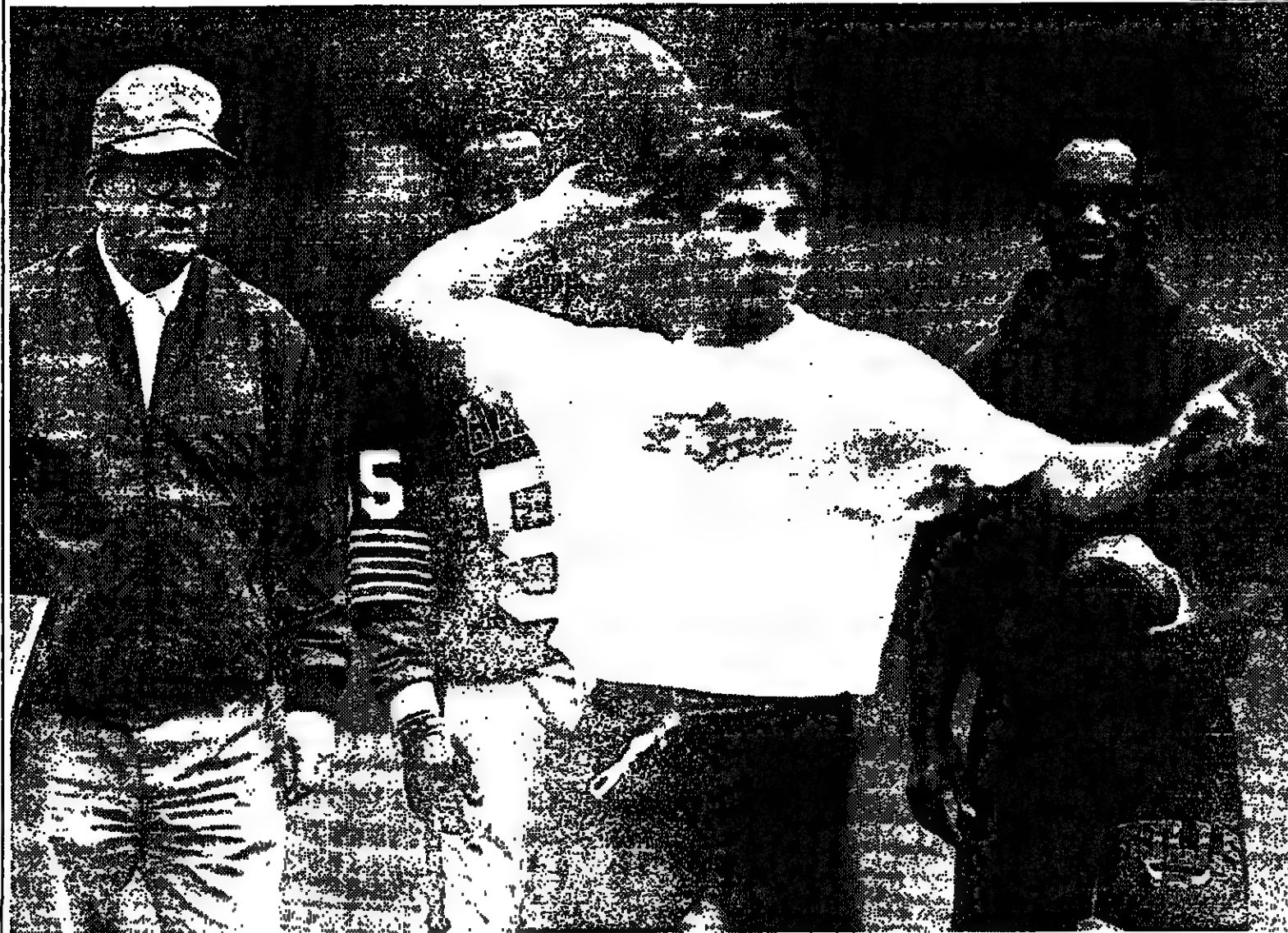
It will need more than one additional Superleague team next season to accommodate the equivalent band of younger players eager to come to grips with the long-established elite of the women's game.

Colets P W L W L Pts  
Nottingham 8 6 2 18 6 20  
Caversham 8 5 3 14 10 20  
Cannons 8 5 3 14 10 20  
Courland 8 0 8 0 14 18

Richard Wetherell checks out American football's venture into Europe

## A father figure named Elway

MARIO ASPLAND



Search for a local hero: A potential recruit for London Lightning goes through his paces under the keen eye of the coach, Jack Elway, at a try-out session

There are many examples in sport of sons struggling to escape from the shadow cast by famous fathers. Jack Elway finds himself in the reverse position. For his son, John, is the same John Elway who has led the Denver Broncos to three Super Bowls in the last four years and is one of the best known sportsmen in the United States.

Jack Elway is hoping to make his mark in the same sport but in a different country, for he is the coach of London Lightning, one of the teams that will form the International League of American Football (ILAF), which starts in April.

The ILAF is the first professional league in Europe and comprises teams from Birmingham (the Bears will play at Villa Park), Amsterdam, Barcelona, Helsinki, Milan, Munich and Rome. London will play at Stamford Bridge. All the teams will have a roster of 36 — 12 Americans and 24 nationals. The Americans are college

players or men who had brief stays with National Football League (NFL) teams during the last strike. Others have played in Canada and some have even been involved with gridiron's poor relation, Australian.

Each team's nationals will be whittled down from those attending the try-outs, the first of which were last weekend. Jack Elway, who has coached at Stanford and San Jose Universities, sees the new league as a great opportunity for them.

Elway was invited in as a coach four months ago by the commissioner of the league, Carroll P. Huntress. Seeing it as both an opportunity to visit England and an adventure he was interested enough to accept.

Indeed, he has had to turn down other jobs to take this one. After being in college football for 30 years he needed another challenge and had talks with the New York Jets about being a position coach. When he goes back home he hopes to reopen

negotiations with them. However, at the age of 58 he has understandable doubts about making the leap from college football to the NFL. While confident enough of his ability to survive in the NFL — "a fraternity with experience in pro football" — the challenge of being in at the birth of the ILAF proved more attractive.

The huge gap which exists between the NFL and all other levels of the sport is one that the ILAF hopes to bridge. Elway has been impressed with the British players.

"I really like their attitude and passion for the game," he said. He admits they are better than he and his fellow coaches had given them credit for. But if the league is to take off it needs a few local heroes to emerge, and quickly.

Elway believes that the Lightning running back, Victor Ebubeleke, could be one such and might be good enough to play in the NFL. Ebubeleke will be helped by the fact that the quarter-

backs will be Americans. One of them, David Dacus, who played at college with Jerry Rice, the outstanding wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers, will head the "explosive offensive game" that is Elway's passion.

It is hoped that more passing and more big plays than are usual in Britain will bring in the crowds. "The exhibition games have been an indication that there is an interest in the game," Elway said. In the nature of sport these days, there is even a special telephone line for those extra keen for information.

During the next two months, the 24 local players have to be chosen and trained. London Lightning's first match will be home to Milan on April 14. Before then Elway will be hoping to mould a team that will live up to his promises. There is a hoary old footballing phrase: "He who lives by the pen shall die by the pen." By July, when the season ends, we shall find out.

## HOCKEY

The running game  
is still holding  
sway in Argentina

From Sydney Friskin, Lahore

Among the few at the seventh World Cup smiling in adversity is Carlos Alberto Badano, the Argentina manager, even though the team has not qualified for the Champions Trophy tournament at Melbourne in November and its quest for a place in the 1994 World Cup must begin again.

Badano has a simple explanation for why Argentina, after a stunning beginning, slumped to fifth in their group and are now playing off for ninth to twelfth places. "We play the running game and if the barriers are set up they destroy our rhythm," he said, shuddering at suggestions that they should fall back on defence and rely on a policy of counter-attack. "That is not our mentality."

The natural flair and athleticism of the Argentinians have lent enchantment to a competition in which tactical plays have tended to detract from the game as a spectacle. Their audacity in challenging the strongest sides becomes all the more astonishing when the limitations of their own resources at home are examined.

They have only one artificial turf pitch, in Buenos Aires, and even that, laid 10 years ago, has seen so much wear and tear that an international match can no longer be played on it. They also have serious financial problems. The team had to rely on the

generosity of the Malaysians for its participation in the junior World Cup at Ipoh last August.

In spite of these handicaps, the Argentinian association runs a national league with 12 teams in the first division and 14 in the second. Most teams are in Buenos Aires, although there is limited activity at Mendoza and Cordoba in the interior.

It is in the rising generation that Badano sees cause for hope. Hundreds of schoolboys, aged 12 and over, are being coached by former national players and all, he says, are keen to learn.

There have been few smiles from Kumarash Sen, the manager of India, whose plight is similar to that of Argentina. Setting aside the anti-Indian demonstrations by students over the issue of Kashmir, he believes there is a deep-seated fault that must be tackled when the team returns home.

"Somebody has to make the Indian Hockey Federation realize that we must have a foreign coach who can advise us on tactics, stamina, fitness and dieting," he said.

England's own crisis — they are struggling to finish in the top six so as to qualify automatically for the next World Cup — has been largely self-inflicted. They left themselves too much to do by losing their group match against Spain by 4-1. They went to sleep for 15 minutes and paid the penalty.

## NETBALL

Wales take heart from  
the return of Walker

By Louise Taylor

Welsh pride may have been punctured at Twickenham last Saturday, but the country's netballers salvaged more than a silver against England at Poole. True, Wales were beaten, but while the men with the oval ball were shredded, the women gave England a genuine scare in Dorset.

The final scoreline of 43-30 in England's favour was the narrowest margin of victory for nine years. Indeed, considering England have won 44, draw one, and lost one of the 46 meetings between the countries, Wales could be well satisfied.

England were surprised by the power and accuracy of Pam Walker, the 6ft Welsh goal-shooter, returning to international duty after a year's absence through injury. By contrast, Joan Bryan, the normally prolific England goal-shooter, was out of sorts, and replaced by Karen Fenlon at half-time.

If the Welsh seniors pro-

nounced themselves "delighted" with their scoreline, the under-21s must have been suitably depressed by their 66-29 beating. At this level, England excelled in the goal-shooting department, Lisa Toplis, of Derbyshire, making an excellent international debut.

Cheryl Dawson, of England, has been invited to act as one of three neutral umpires — the others are from Bermuda and Australia — during the Mito International series between New Zealand, Australia, and Jamaica, to be held in New Zealand at the end of April.

If she accepts, it will be one of two trips to the other side of the world for Dawson this year. She has already taken up an offer to umpire on the tour to Australia by English Schools in August.

This Saturday sees the home international season continue at under-16 level, when England entertain Northern Ireland at Manchester University.



William dropped in, so we talked long about old times.

J. &amp; J. Co. Ltd.



Rex Bellamy recalls boyhood Saturday afternoons watching football at Yeovil, famous for its slope and FA Cup upsets

# Yeovil prepare for life on the level

The gods can show a wondrous sense of occasion when playing games with us and devising rewards for those who have been patient and deserving. Thus it was when Hillary and Tenzing celebrated a coronation by climbing the biggest rock in the world, and when Virginia Wade celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Queen's accession by winning Wimbledon.

Sometimes the gods need a nudge. It would be apt, for example, if Yeovil Town's flight from their famous sloping pitch could be preceded by a Wembley debut and succeeded, a year or so hence, by promotion to what used to be known as the Football League: an elevation that seemed more likely 50-odd years ago than it does at the moment.

The immediate obstacle between The Glovers and Wembley is a home tie with Barrow, on Saturday in the FA Trophy, a knockout event for clubs outside the big league. The winners will move into the last eight.

Yeovil have twice reached the semi-finals: a modest eminence by comparison with their sporadic attempts to teach the big boys that FA Cup ties at the Huish ground cannot be prescribed as tonics for self-esteem. The ground is a potential hillside that never quite grew up.

Yeovil have had 13 FA Cup wins, 10 of them at Huish, over Football League clubs. Bury and Sunderland in turn were beaten at Huish in the 1948-49 season, whereupon a host of townsfolk sporting green and white colours and gentle accents flocked to the North to attend a fifth-round drubbing at the feet of Manchester United. The crowd would have filled Huish eight times.

Sheffield Wednesday and Arsenal are among the teams who not only found their way to Huish but kept their dignity by winning there. Yeovil's FA Cup reputation was founded in the 1934-35 season when they reached the third round for the first time but then discovered that, even at Huish, Liverpool were less vulnerable than Crystal Palace and Exeter City.

I was there that day, when our heroes played Liverpool, because Huish was childhood. It was in the shadow of the main stand — in that tiny, battered old school tightly sandwiched between the ground and the street — that one was introduced to the three Rs and such eternal verities as the importance of football.

Occasionally, other sports impinged. At Wincanton one day we watched that great and glorious steeplechaser, Golden Miller. And in summer we used to go over to Taunton, where the sun was always shining and the likes of Arthur Welford, Bill Andrews, Harold Gimblett, and John "Farmer" White showed us the way cricket should be played.

We had relatives all over Somerset and Dorset, with a preponderance of little old ladies who looked rather like folded umbrellas because they dressed in black from neck to ankles, as if permanently poised between funerals. One such lived at Dorchester, had been acquainted with Thomas Hardy, and hinted that he had been an odd sort of chap.

In that wide education, how lucky we were. But nothing else mattered quite as much as Huish. Four old pennies suf-



A memorable day at Huish: The packed crowd celebrates the defeat of first division Sunderland in 1949, one of the greatest upsets in FA Cup history

ficed for a bag of sweets, admission, a programme, and a "penny-on-the-ball" gamble that earned some lucky investors the right to take home the match ball. There was no charge for the town band's version of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes".

In those distant days Yeovil and Petters United (the "Town" club had been amalgamated with a team representing a local engineering works) played in the Southern League. Later the works were shifted to Loughborough and the name Yeovil Town was restored.

Huish became the club's home in the 1920-21 season. Now, 70 years and many memories on, a new stadium is being built a five-minute drive away on the Houndstone business park, amid modern housing on the Taunton road. In June, the inner-town Huish ground will recede into history and redevelopment as a supermarket.

The pity is that it did not happen sooner, as the club intended. Roger Brinsford, the general manager and secretary, explains that the main aim is Football League status: "The transition wouldn't be the upheaval for us that it would be for a lot of clubs."

"We're operating as a fourth division club, with a full-time manager [Brian Hall, formerly assistant manager at Wimbledon] and a full-time general manager and secretary. We have moved a lot of our players to this part of the world and found them jobs. And we're operating the Youth Training Scheme."

"But we're restricted here. We've only got 3½ acres. We're moving to 25 acres." The problems of staging a capacity FA Cup tie had become enormous, he added,



A proud past to build on: Brian Hall, the manager Yeovil hope can lead them into the Football League in the next few years

because of the increasing safety regulations (even before Hillsborough) and the demands of television.

"If we were organizing bigger games on a more regular basis we would have severe difficulties. And to get into the Football League you've got to meet a hell of a lot of criteria. We'd have to level the pitch to start with."

The drop between the Huish touchlines is eight feet, which is three feet more than the permitted maximum. "To stay here and get this ground into shape would need a major revamp. We'd virtually have to demolish, and start again. The move to a new stadium was paramount." So the club arranged to sell the site for £2.4 million.

"We had the backing and district councils," Brinsford

says, "and overwhelming support for the move to Houndstone. At that stage we estimated that to develop the whole of the new 25-acre site at one go would have cost us £1.8 million to £1.9 million. We would have had half a million in the bank as a buffer."

But other developers also had plans for Huish and the ensuing public enquiry took more than two years to publish its findings. By that time the cost of doing all the club wanted to do at Houndstone had escalated to about £3.6 million, whereas only a modest increase (from £2.4 million to £2.8 million) could be negotiated for the sale of the Huish site.

"We've had to do a lot of cost-cutting," Brinsford says, "because we'll have to spend

at least £2.8 million just to get our stadium and ancillary services. Over the next two or three years we'll have to develop other facilities from the income we generate."

As an example, the cantilever roof that should have run all the way round the ground will temporarily be restricted to the length of the pitch on both sides (2,500 seats on each flank). But the terracing at both ends could easily be converted to seating areas.

All has been designed so that Houndstone can be smoothly refined into the ground Yeovil intended it to be in the first place. The finished product will include a floodlit, all-weather subsidiary surface suitable for training and for a variety of other sports involving the local community.

The design was largely based on that of the new stadium at Scunthorpe. For a time the capacity of Houndstone may be less than 9,000, but it could soon rise to 13,000 or 14,000. "A lot of first division attendances are round about 14,000," Brinsford says. "When we get into the Football League we'll be able to cater for our needs without undue alterations, even if we progress up through the divisions."

Well, football is not what it was before the advent of the one-touch school, long hair, and passionate embraces. Some of the enchantment has gone. But on Monday mornings I still scan the results in search of two names: Yeovil Town and Sheffield Wednesday. That is another story.

## RACING

## Pukka Major's antics defeat character study

By Christopher Goulding

Even Freud would have been at a loss to explain what goes on in the mind of Pukka Major, one of racing's most unpredictable performers. His jockey and Hyde character goes on trial again today in the Sky Blue Handicap Chase at Warwick after his refusal to participate on four occasions.

"I train him on a day-to-day basis and he is happy as Larry," Tim Thomson Jones said yesterday. "I took him to Sandown and Hywel Davies jumped him off without any problems. Let's hope he does the same at Warwick."

At Newbury recently, Pukka Major mystified his trainer. "I let him in at the start but he knew exactly what was going on," Thomson Jones said. "It was not until he heard the starter's whistle that he stood rigid. Now he knows he can get away with it. The expression on his face is unbelievable when he comes back on his own. It's a cheeky horse" written all over it.

Desmond Morris, who has made a study of equine behaviour in his book, *Horsewatching*, questions why more horses do not behave in this way. "It is strange that competitive horses on the track are not more devious in their treatment of their riders. Since many successful horses win time and again, and are repeatedly whipped for their pains, one can only conclude that the fastest racers do not possess the brightest brains of the equine world."

Pukka Major was previously under the care of Oliver Sherwood, and has apparently remembered the fact. After getting loose, he returned to his previous stable.

Thomson Jones, who was helped by Pukka Major to win two of his three amateur riders' championships, would, as a last resort, consider returning to the saddle.

"It's very frustrating and it's a problem that looms out of nowhere," Thomson Jones said. "If he was such a good horse, you would be tempted to find something else for him to do."

"But when he is racing he's a real battler. I think the Grand National would be an ideal race for him." Pukka Major no doubt has other ideas.

"Few horses are as completely helpless dealing with their riders as some imagine," Dr Morris said. "It is easy enough for them to learn what is demanded of them and then sulkily refuse to perform."

Morris recalled the horse's old trick of dislodging an unwanted passenger by galloping under a low branch. In the absence of a convenient tree, Bajan Sunshine unconsciously dumped Peter

Scudamore, the champion jockey, over the final fence at Sandown last season after digging his toes in with the race at his mercy.

"I think it happened because he saw Peter go for his stick," he saw Peter go for his stick, said, Charlie Brooks, 31 years old. "He is certainly not ungenious."

Brooks has tremendous respect for his horses. "They must be happy and need a routine. A horse's intelligence is comparable to humans. Some are remarkably intelligent and others are not."

"Often when a horse goes to the United States and you think the environment is better, suit them and yet they end up being brilliant. It is down to a set routine. You must not let a horse become bewildered."

Vodkani, who has the same aversion to racing as Pukka Major, has been frustrating his trainer, Josh Gifford, with his reluctance to race. "It's impossible to read their minds," said Gifford, whose experience of training spans 20 years. "You can take them hunting and try lots of different ideas and they usually behave themselves. But it's like cricket; you can be brilliant in the nets, but when you get out in the middle it's a totally different game."

The Findon trainer's frustration soon becomes apparent. "You try and make him happy and then suddenly he goes and turns up and you. Finally enough, I think he behaves worse when he is feeling really well himself and is hyped up. Then he appears to get a mental block."

Gifford, who until recently had become a familiar sight at the start, recalled: "At Ascot last season other horses were playing up and he had plenty of distractions to do the same. But no, he stood there calmly. I led him in and everything looked like it was going to work. But when the starter called them up he just planted himself. He certainly knew what he was doing."

"I am afraid he has become worse," Gifford went on. "We did to put the blinkers on when he last ran because if he refused again he probably would be banned. On that occasion I sent Joe Price, our gallops man, to the start and the horse jumped off."

Joe got him going as the horse knows him from the home gallops. I told him to wear that big hat so he would recognize him. He always wears it on the gallops when he chases him along."

But, really, there is no way of understanding what they are thinking. It's certainly nice to have characters, but damned frustrating. If they were all the same it would make the game all rather boring wouldn't it?

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Sponsors support Burghley series

By Jenny MacArthur

Pet Plan Equestrian is to sponsor the 1990 Burghley Young Event Horse series, a competition designed to find the evening champions of the future.

The company, a division of the Pet Plan Group — the largest animal health insurer in Britain — is putting £5,000 into the series, which has nine qualifying rounds. Windsor hosts the first round on 25 May. The 25 May

The competition, open to four and five-year-old horses, was devised by Bill Henson, the director of Burghley, who recognized the need for such a series to help Britain retain her pre-eminence in the sport. The two age groups are judged separately, each horse perform-

ing a simple test. Henson's brain child was quick to show results. The inaugural competition, in 1987, was won by Pedro the Cruel, ridden by Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the dual Olympic gold medal winner. The pair went on to win the Lions d'Angers three-day event in France later that year.

This year's winners will receive £250, plus a year's free insurance with Pet Plan which, having started the series in 1987, has now started a series of division in September 1988. Insures more than 5,500 horses. Henson's young event horse series is a series of three events: the first is the Burghley Young Event Horse Trials, May 28; the second is the Burghley Young Event Horse Trials, July 27; the third is the Burghley Young Event Horse Trials, August 26. The two age groups are judged separately, each horse perform-

## FOOTBALL

## Durham end the stalemate

Schools football by George Chesterton

Durham Sixth Form College defeated Scarborough Technical College 3-0 in the Barclays under-19 competition, but they left it late in their replay match before they did so.

With another replay looking likely and Durham marshalling a solid defence for Scarborough, Thompson picked up a through-ball and chipped it neatly out of the goalkeeper's reach to make it 1-0. Minutes later, Dumphy headed in from a corner and Thompson had another, scoring with his head from a free kick.

Westminster were 2-0 up at half-time when they entertained UCS, the goals coming from Cleland and McCormick. The latter made it 3-0 shortly after the interval. UCS reduced their lead twice from the penalty spot but 3-2 was the final score, an especially satisfactory result for Schatzman, the Westminster captain, playing for the first time of the season after a persistent knee injury.

Oratory won both matches on their first overseas tour when they visited The Netherlands during half-term. In the first match, against Quickstep RFC, which they won 4-1, Clarke scored twice from short range, while the third goal, by Hunt, was a long drive from well outside the penalty area. Hascher had the nanally when he back-heeled over the line from a yard or two out. Clarke scored two goals in their victory over SC Stoterpark in Amsterdam. Birenchorn and Giles were the other scorers.

## BBC's rights of way are being eroded

By Richard Evans

Media Editor

The BBC is losing its battle with the Government to prevent new satellite television operators bidding for exclusive coverage of Britain's leading sporting events. Despite assistance lobbying by BBC executives, led by Paul Fox, the managing director of BBC Television, the Home Office remains convinced that a change is needed to the system of awarding television rights for the big sporting occasions.

BBC and ITV have enjoyed an inbuilt advantage when bidding for the rights to 10 "listed" events, such as Wimbledon tennis, the FA Cup final and the Grand National. Although cable

operators could pluck for the rights, BBC and ITV were given the choice of the cash bid and retain the coverage.

In practice, BBC and ITV have been able to "carve up" the coverage of the leading sports events and pay below the going rate to sporting bodies. The Broadcasting Bill proposes opening up the system so that Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) and other television operators could win exclusive coverage if they pay the highest amount for rights.

The BBC, which faces losing out more than ITV, insists that television coverage of listed events should be available to most viewers and not be confined to satellite companies which

beam programmes to a very small proportion of homes.

David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, received a well-intentioned ear-bashing from BBC chiefs when he was a corporation guest at the Ealing-Wales rugby international on Saturday. But he is understood to remain convinced that the Government's sports rights proposals represent a bold and principled move which sporting authorities have welcomed.

The main danger for the Government is a repeat of what happened in West Germany last summer when a small cable television company bought the rights to Wimbledon coverage, thus depriving most of the

country's viewers from watching the victories of Becker and Graf.

David Mellor and his colleagues are confident that sporting authorities and sponsors of main events will not want to confine coverage to minority channels, and point to the decision by Wimbledon tennis chiefs to make an exclusive rights going to Sky or BSB.

"I do not think the consequences of these changes will be to drive major sporting events off a major channel," one senior Home Office source said. "It might make some of the negotiations between broadcasters and sporting authorities more even-handed and interesting. The sports bodies have welcomed the opportunity to be able to negotiate on a more open basis."

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 Official Start

Farnborough Town v Cheltenham

AC DELCO CUP: Fourth round: Cheltenham v St Albans

WESTGATE INSURANCE CUP: Fourth round: second leg: VS Rugby v Ashford

POLYMER CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle v Liverpool

Division (7.30): Bolton v Mansfield

Stroud v Wigan; York v Burnley

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QUINCYEN PAPERS COMPETITION: Principled more which sporting authorities have welcomed

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SKY ONE EXCLUSIVE

# LIVE CUP SOCCER

## TONIGHT AT 7.30pm

Live coverage of the Zenith Cup Southern Final 1st Leg: Crystal Palace v Chelsea



## BADMINTON

## Withdrawals hit world title chances

England yesterday suffered two setbacks in their attempt to reach the finals of the Thomas and Uber Cups world team championships in Tokyo in May and June when Andy Goode and Sara Sankey withdrew from this week's preliminary rounds at Villach, Austria (Richard Eaton writes).

Goode, England's leading mixed doubles player, has tendonitis in the knee. Sankey, a women's doubles gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games, has an ear infection. Helen Troke, resting after losing her Commonwealth title in Auckland, had already pulled out of Villach, where England begin playing tomorrow.

Cheryl Johnson has been brought in for Sankey. No replacement has been named for Goode.

Results, page 47

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# Wightman Cup may not survive suspension



Jones: times have changed

By Andrew Longmore

The future of the Wightman Cup, the oldest, and most one-sided tennis tournament in the women's calendar, was thrown into severe doubt yesterday.

A joint statement by the tennis associations of Britain and the United States announced that the 62nd Wightman Cup, scheduled for the Albert Hall, London, had been cancelled and that the competition had been "suspended pending further study".

Only time will tell whether that is a euphemism for ending an event which, during most of its 67-year history, had been as much about tradition and pageantry as winning or losing. But clearly the Lawn Tennis Association has bowed to the depressing weight of statistics and admitted defeat with the overall score at

United States 51, Great Britain 10.

"We are very sorry that it has become necessary to suspend the Wightman Cup," the LTA president, Ron Presley, said. "But, unfortunately, the current disparity of the rankings between the players of our two countries in recent years has meant that the event has become uncompetitive."

No one who witnessed the most recent debacle, at Williamsburg last September, Britain's eleventh defeat in a row and the fourth 7-0 whitewash in five years, could argue with those sentiments. But the reality could not hide the sense of sadness felt yesterday by two of Britain's Wightman Cup veterans.

Ann Jones played 32 matches in singles and doubles in the Wightman Cup, more than anyone except Virginia

Wade and Chris Evert. She still felt great affection for the tournament yet, having sat at the side of the court as captain of the last British team, she was also acutely aware that times have changed.

"Yes, I'm sad that the event has been suspended because I enjoyed some of my best times in the Wightman Cup and I think the tradition of it becomes more important as the professional game moves further away from its roots," she said. "But in this day and age, when there are so many tournaments and the players are travelling so much, anyway, is there a validity in holding the event?"

"It could be good for the players but they have to be better. You can enjoy it a lot more if you know it's going to be close. I just hope it will continue in some form."

Christine Jones, who played

27 matches in 13 ties, was part of the team which, in 1958, ended the longest losing sequence in the history of the cup. Britain did not win one tie from 1931 to 1957 but, apart from the war years, there was no thought of cancellation.

"It was different from any other week of the year because you were representing your country and playing in a team," she said. "It was played at Wimbledon at the height of the summer and royalty came to watch, so it was a great occasion."

"It was something to aim for as well. Wimbledon and the Wightman Cup; those were the two great events in the calendar for us. Maybe I'm just getting old but I don't think you should end an event just because you're losing. Is that progress?"

The answer is "no" but the

reality is that the cup, a tall silver vase first presented by Mrs Wightman in 1923, has become devalued not just by Britain's heavy defeats but by the recent attitude of the British players. To be honest, it is now considered a dubious privilege to be thrashed by an American third team simply for the honour of your country.

So what is the future for the Wightman Cup? The impetus for the suspension has come from this side of the Atlantic. The Americans would be quite happy to continue winning for another 11 years. But there are other ideas in the wind.

One of the more persistent is to copy the Ryder Cup and make the match Europe v US. Unfortunately, Britain would not have anyone in the team and so the original concept, which the Americans, in

particular, are anxious to maintain, would be lost.

Another, and more appealing, idea is that it should become an event for juniors and over-35s.

The ideal, of course, would be for Britain to produce some decent players over the next few years and make it a contest again. But the fear is that reviving the whole show might be much harder than cancelling it, however good the intentions of both associations to find a new format.

"I feel there is a place for it in the game," Nancy Jeffett, who has been chairman of the Wightman Cup committee of the US Tennis Association for many years, said. "I hope the suspension is only temporary because the Wightman Cup is part of the history of women's tennis."

## Going for a Burton ticket

By David Hands and Louise Taylor

As the Rugby Football Union began the task of tracing the original sources of black market tickets sold for last Saturday's England-Wales international at Twickenham, a leading supplier of illicitly acquired tickets deflected the ethics of his corporate hospitality business yesterday.

"I do not know what the fuss is all about," Mike Burton, the former England and Lions forward, insisted. "The RFU has known for many years that we take about 1,000 people to Twickenham, or to Cardiff, or to Parc des Princes."

"They are very happy when it is away games because their ticket allocation for those matches is limited, anyway. But when we go to Twickenham, we are one of the huddies."

The morality of the long-established black market in international tickets was thrown into the spotlight last week when 900 of Burton's international tickets were returned by the police after his former accountant at Mike Burton Management had stolen them in order to "expose a massive can of worms."

## Expulsion threat for ticket trading

Under RFU rules, international-match tickets, which are always oversubscribed, are distributed through affiliated clubs and schools. The RFU recommends the expulsion of members found "trading" in tickets.

Any school or club whose allocation finds its way to the black market and is subsequently traced via the serial numbers automatically has its allocation withdrawn.

In reality, relatively few are caught "trading" and with rates of up to £500 for a pair of seats available to sellers, tickets are often sold on in order to finance a club tour or buy a piece of equipment.

Such tickets are bought by men like Burton, who typically resell them to companies wanting to entertain clients in a corporate hospitality package, built around a big sporting event.

In this instance, the police have kept copies of the serial numbers on the tickets, and the RFU had hoped they would pass them on to Twickenham, thus enabling the original clubs and associations to be traced.

However, after a meeting with police yesterday, an RFU spokesman said: "We do not expect that the police will pass the tickets on, they are not their property to hand over."

Nevertheless a team of three RFU officials is tracing around 80 serial numbers of tickets passed to them by spectators who bought on the black market. "We are pleased with our rate of success," the spokesman added.

Burton is not bothered. "The fact that the tickets were stolen, and that the police have the reference numbers, is not a worry at all. Does the RFU think that I get the tickets from the same people every year? It is laughable."

"I have got more people offering me tickets this year than ever before, people I have never heard of. As for passing on the ticket numbers, Dudley Wood must remember he is only the RFU secretary. He is not the Pope. He is asking Gloucester police to misuse their powers and act as agents for the RFU?"

## Paying £500 for a pair of seats

The flourishing nature of the black market is illustrated by the relative ease with which Burton was able to replace his stolen tickets in the fortnight before Saturday's match.

"The tickets were returned very late, but we did all right. Once we knew they had been stolen, we went out and bought between 450 and 500 at top black market rates - paying around £500 for a pair of seats, any seats."

"Our main concern was the people who had booked with us, that they got into the match and had a nice day. We lost a few bob, but it increased business because a lot went on to book Scotland-England."

Burton's organization is fully booked for the Calcutta Cup match on March 17, when some 750 clients will watch Scotland play England at Edinburgh. He is also organizing hospitality for about 400 when Wales play Scotland at Cardiff on March 3 and says he is "surprised" at the strong demand for the Ireland-Wales international in Dublin on March 24.

## SFA tightens rules on Italy

By a Special Correspondent

The club versus country issue, which raised its head again during Scotland's fact-finding trip to Genoa a fortnight ago, should have been settled in Glasgow yesterday by Ernie Walker, the secretary of the Scottish Football Association (SFA). Walker announced that the international committee had decided that any player missing any of Scotland's preparations for this summer's World Cup finals, be it a game or other related activities, would rule himself out of a trip to Italy - unless he has an acceptable reason for withdrawal.

In addition, injured players will have to turn up at the point of departure, with a doctor's certificate in hand, unless they have been advised by their own physician against travelling. Anyone missing an international match who then plays for his club side within five days will find himself disqualified from participating in Italy.

The SFA's stance comes only 10 days after the non-appearance of Jim Leighton and Brian McClair, the Manchester United pair, and, more particularly, of Gary Gillespie and Steve Nicol, the Liverpool duo.

Walker said that the international committee had steered clear of "moving the goal posts" during the qualifying rounds. However, now that the Scots had qualified for their fifth successive finals, they were determined to take the matter out of the hands of the national coach.

Walker said that Scotland's efforts in reaching the finals could come to nothing if players were withdrawn "willy nilly". "As recently as the weekend before last, you will know that a number of players were called out of our party for no apparent reason," Walker said. "It seemed to be that individuals thought that it wasn't a good idea, and that Scotland didn't need them and certainly didn't get them. For that to be repeated by the clubs concerned, who are, of course, entitled to do what they want with their players, we would simply say 'good luck', but these players will not be in Italy."

acted Graham Taylor, his Villa counterpart, to discuss the player's availability.

Heath spent six years at Everton after being bought by Kendall from Stoke City for £700,000 in January 1982. He left the Merseyside club in 1988 to join Espanol but returned to England in August last year when Villa paid the Spanish club £360,000 for his services. He has been unable to command a place in the successful Villa team since the early part of the season.

England's batting was wasteful, some showing woe, some showing slow bowling, both in defence and attack. This may scarcely matter during the rest of the tour, but the way they played was yet more evidence in support of four-day county cricket which, for parochial and myopic reasons, the clubs now seem about to reject.

Yesterday's play was always destined to be more significant, with England trying out the restricted four-man attack they are increasingly favouring for Test duty, and Malcolm taking a specific stride into the unknown. If ever he is to fulfill the lofty hopes invested in him it is here and in his shy, slightly gawky way, he knows it.

It must have been a moving moment for him, opening the England bowling on his native island, but while the ball was hard he maintained a good line and a vigorous pace.

Morgan, who is probably deputy behind the established West Indian opening pair of Greenidge and Haynes, found himself ducking in some haste, while his partner Samuel was twice struck on the body.

This square has twice been reaid since England were beaten by 10 wickets here in 1986, and its most recent characteristic is to keep low. Patterson, for instance, has taken a very high proportion of his wickets this season with leg-before verdicts against batsmen shaping for more bounce.

The first Jamaican wicket was claimed by Fraser, committing Morgan to a shot and leaving him just enough of the pitch to take the outside edge. Morgan, however, was the only right-bander in the Jamaican top four and Fraser was somehow disoriented by the change of line. He began dropping persistently short, conceded 28 runs in four overs and retired to fine leg looking thoroughly out of sorts.

Capel replaced him and looked grateful for the early opportunity. So often he has bowled for England in a lost cause, but now he took two wickets in his first four overs, bowling Samuel round his legs and having Kennedy

## Malcolm pushes his claims

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
Kingston

The good news for England at Sabina Park yesterday, was that Devon Malcolm indicated he may yet prove the selectors right, rather than the cynics who view his inclusion here as attacking a swarm of angry bees with a fly swatter.

The bad news, with the first Test now only three days distant, is that rumours of the death of this notorious pich may have been greatly exaggerated. If Malcolm could make one ball lift and the next scuffle through ankle-high, the prospect of facing Marshall, Bishop, Patterson and Walsh on Saturday morning is not a guaranteed lullaby for England's batsmen.

There is still a distinctly darker tinge to the Test pitch, adjacent to the one presently being used, and that will not necessarily change. This opening Test is as psychologically important to West Indies, who want their fast bowlers to re-impose a mental hold, as it is for England, whose priority is simply to deny them.

It was only yesterday that the pitch's behaviour was properly examined. In Test terms, Monday's play was irrelevant for, although Graham Gooch indulged himself voraciously, nobody else managed even 50 against bowling so dissimilar to anything England will face at the weekend that it might have been designed to deceive.

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Congratulations: the England team produces a cake to help Eddie Hemmings celebrate his 41st birthday yesterday

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caught behind. Sturpe, one of two teenagers in the Jamaican top five, then launched an ambitious pull at an off-side short ball from Malcolm and Capel, still in the action, took the catch at third man.

Adams looked the most accomplished of the Jamaicans until running himself out, and when Davidson was acrobatically caught by Hussain at cover, the island team were in dire trouble at 128 for six.

ENGLAND 405 (G A Gooch 236; D S Morgan 4-31)

JAMAICA  
D Morgan c Russell b Fraser 10  
R G Samuel c Capel 41  
N Kennedy c Russell b Capel 42  
R Sturpe c Capel b Malcolm 6  
G A Davidson c Hussain b Fraser 27  
J Adams run out 2  
R C Hayes not out 2  
L Williams not out 5

Total (8 wickets) 128  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-42, 3-81, 4-88, 5-117, 6-128

Leicestershire County Cricket Club made a loss last season - for the first time in 20 years - of £3,186. Northamptonshire, however, reported a profit of £53,383, and Sussex announced a record of £100,264 in their 150th year.

## World record falls

By Simon Wilde

Amid scenes of higher farce than can ever have been seen previously on a first-class cricket field, Lee Gernon, a batsman with Canterbury playing in New Zealand's Shell Trophy, yesterday claimed for himself one of the game's most hallowed records.

Facing a succession of no-balls from Wellington's Robert Vance, the Test batsman, designed to renew Canterbury's interest in the match, Gernon hit eight sixes and five fours during an over occupying 22 balls, in the course of which 77 runs were conceded.

The previous world record for runs (36) and six hits (six) off an over was shared by long to Gary Sobers (for Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan at Swansea in 1968) and Ravi Shastri (for Bombay against Gujarat at Bombay in 1984-85).

The tactics were instigated by the Wellington captain, Ervin McSweeney, whose

team were pursuing victory in the match at Christchurch to ensure they took the trophy, Canterbury chasing 291 to win, were 196 for eight, when Vance bowled the penultimate over of the match.

Without using a run-up, Vance lobbed the ball up to the batsmen. In the ensuing plethora of no-balls, the umpires lost count of the legitimate deliveries and the over ended after only five legal deliveries.

In the final over, Evan Gray, the former Test left-arm spinner, adopted similar tactics to Vance, conceding another 17 runs, five from deliberate no-balls, but amid all confusion neither the official scorers nor the scoreboard attendants were able to keep pace with the scoring. It was 8.40pm before all the official figures were available, when it transpired Canterbury were two runs short of victory with Gray still required to bowl two legitimate balls.

the speed of Maiden's progress overnight. The British yacht averaged 10.9 knots between satellite sweeps yesterday, the fastest recorded among the smaller yachts, showing a determination to reduce the 136 mile lead now held by Patrick Tabarley's French yacht, L'Esprit de Liberte.

There was no word yesterday on the condition of Michele Paret, who suffered a bad back injury on Tuesday. Tim Madge, a member of Maiden's shore team has travelled to Cape Horn and is preparing emergency plans with the Chilean Navy to lift Paret off the yacht if she has not recovered by the time the boat rounds the Cape.

The only welcome news was

More yachting, page 46

LEADING POSITIONS completed at 14.50 GMT yesterday with miles to finish of:

1. Maiden (GB), 1,024.13; 2. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 3. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 4. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 5. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 6. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 7. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 8. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 9. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13; 10. L'Esprit de Liberte (FR), 1,024.13.

## S African ban stands

Kuwait (AP) - Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, dismissed reforms in South Africa as cosmetic and said the sports ban against the country will not be relaxed.

After a meeting in Kuwait with the IOC apartheid and Olympic commission, and later with representatives of a United Nations anti-apartheid commission, he said: "The ingredients for eradicating apartheid have not been lifted, therefore the international sanctions should be maintained to pressure South Africa to lift its policy of apartheid."

Select choice

The Olympic silver medalist, John Treacey, has been selected to compete for Ireland in the European championship marathon in Yugoslavia on September 1. Treacey, who finished second at the Los Angeles Games, was second in the Tokyo marathon last week.

## Parke's avenue

Simon Parke, England's youngest international player, has qualified to meet Umar Hayat Khan, the world No. 6, from Pakistan, in the first round of the £50,000 Locks Welsh Classic that starts at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff today. Parke, aged 17, defeated Sami Elopuro, the Finnish No. 1, in the qualifying finals on Monday.

Boxing deal

Richie Woodhall, the Commonwealth Games lightweight boxing champion, has received a sponsorship grant worth £1,000 from a Midlands businessman towards his Olympic aspirations. He has rejected an offer to turn professional, but requires £15,000 to keep to his training schedule.

Extended run

The London Marathon will be screened by BBC for the next five years. Both parties reached agreement on a new deal today which begins with this year's race on Sunday April 22.

## Maiden is fastest of the smaller yachts

By Barry Pickthall

Steinlager 2 and Fisher & Paykel, the two rival New Zealand yachts leading the Whitbread Round the World Race, are expected to round Cape Horn today, 17 days after leaving Auckland, on the fourth stage of this global classic.

One hundred miles behind them is a closely matched group of five yachts led by Alain Gabbay's French flyer, Charles Jourdan, which was credited by the Argos satellite monitoring system to have overtaken Britain's leading challenger, Rothmans, overnight.

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More yachting, page 46

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